Join in the celebrations **Details**

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Morissette

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Top writers Bernard Levin presents opera for all, Pl6

Valerie Grove meets the heroine of new Labour, P14



SPECIAL

SUPPLEMENT

Why legs will never be the same again, PAGE 5

Old-fashioned societies strike back

Interest rate cut in home loans battle

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE Nationwide Building Society yesterday cut its mortgage rate for a million borrowers in a surprise move to boost the housing market and strike a blow for oldfashioned mutual societies as its rivals race to become

The half-point cut in the home loan rate and a corresponding increase in the interest it pays its five million will cost the society about half of its £400 million

The money is being invested in customer loyalty in the face of the recent merger maniathat has brought El 000 handouts to members of societies that have combined or announced plans to become pub-

licly quoted companies. The Nationwide wants to persuade its members that by sticking wih its mutual status it can use its profits to offer benefits that cannot be



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matched by rivals who have to

account to shareholders. Both the Halifax and the Woolwich intend to convert next year and to give their savers and borrowers free shares worth an average of £900 to £1,000. Last night they. were considering whether to match or better the Nationwide move, but other lenders will sooner or later be forced to follow suit, pushing down the

cost of home loans to their lowest levels for thirty years. Nationwide borrowers with a £50,000 repayment mortgage will be about £13 a month better off when the new standard rate of 6.99 per cent comes into effect in April. This is still not the lowest variable rate on offer, however, and there are many discounts or

fixed rates available as lenders

chase borrowers. Brian Davis, the Nationwide chief executive, said that if others followed his society's move customers in general would benefit by about £2 billion. We have a clear commitment tò remain a building society because we our customers will be better off," he said. "We have no outside shareholders to satisfy our business prodently on

narrower margins." Geoffrey Lister, the chief executive of Bradford & Bingley, which has also sworn

to remain a mutual organisation, said: "We are delighted that another major building society has taken steps to demonstrate the benefits of mutuality by passing on a large slice of future profits to its members. No plc banks will be able to reduce profits in this way in order to benefit customers who must take

second place to shareholders." Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at the City broker UBS, said: The Nationwide move will make life very difficult for plc lenders who will look uncompetitive. The stock market appeared to agree, and bank shares were

down last night.
Not surprisingly, the banks disagreed. Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, which was the first society to convert to a bank in 1989, said that the latest mortgage cuts were a short-term marketing ploy. It is the last gasp of mutuality and there will be a further fall-out of mergers and

acquisitions." Michael Harden of the Members for Conversion action group said that building societies in general should change to public status as a matter of policy because the and so we can afford to run rewards on conversion would beat any possible mutuality package of benefits that they could come up with".

Pennington, page 23



Those looking for a mortgage bargain have never had such a wide choice. Offers include: Scarborough Building Society: 0.25% fixed for one year

Northern Rock: 1.19% fixed until June 97 for first-time buyers Greenwich: 3.99% fixed for two years for first-time buyers Bradford & Bingley: 6.25% variable rate Direct Line: 6.49% variable rate Royal Bank of Scotland: 6.49% fixed for one year on 100% loan

Many societies are also offering "cashback" deals, including: Cheshire, up to £10,000; Northern Rock, up to £9,000; National & Provincial, up to £7,500; Bradford & Bingley and Alliance & Leicester, up to £6,000; Yorkshire, up to £4,500.



yesterday to the hospital in Lahore founded by her host, Imran Khan. Page 3

Snowball rebuke over Prince

By Alan Hamilton

PUPILS at Eton College have been issued with a stern reminder that throwing snowballs near the school is forbidden, after an incident in which Prince William was set upon by classmates and had his clothes filled with snow.

A gang of boys reportedly rounded on the Prince, 13, and bombarded him with snow, stuffing it down his back and front. One pupil was quoted as saying: "We thought it was awful fun; there weren't any rules about throwing snow, so it seemed perfectly all right." Yesterday a spokeswoman

for John Lewis, Eton's headmaster, said the no-snowball rule had nothing to do with any particular pupil. "Every are reminded that it is forbidden to throw snowballs within the school grounds, for reasons of safety. This rule has been in existence for 15 or 20 years.

Old Etonians expressed dismay. "In my day, the 1950s, if it snowed, the beaks took us down to the Field (part of the college sports ground) and organised proper snowball fights," one said.



prepared to hand over our arms"

Peter Clowes freed after four years of 10-year sentence

By Frances Gibb. Richard Ford and Kate Alderson

PETER CLOWES, the former empany director who defrauded 18,000 mostly elderly investors of £16 million, was freed on parole yesterday after serving only four years of a ten-year jail term.

The release was ordered by the Home Secretary, who "reluctantly" bowed to a Parole Board recommendation which he said he was bound by law to accept. Last night Michael How-

ard's decision provoked anger among investors who lost between £10,000 and £150,000 when Barlow Clowes International collapsed in 1988, owing investors £190 million. They said Clowes should have served the full ten years.

The investors had put their savings in what seemed like a safe haven of gilt-edged government securities and the collapse cost the Government £150 million in compensation.

Karen Reynolds, who with her husband invested £45,000 awarded in a medical negligence case, said: "Serving just four years is no come-uppance for what he did. The judicial system is not fair."

George Bleazard, who set up an action group after losing £10,000 of his pension money, said: "Clowes has served four years and I don't believe that is sufficient for such a massive fraud. For 18 months we lost of not knowing if we would ever see the money again was intolerable."

Clowes, 52, of Aldington, Cheshire, was jailed for fraud and theft in 1992 after a sevenmonth trial that cost more than £6 million in legal aid. Customers were told that their money was being invested in government stock, but

much of it was used to finance

a life of luxury, including a

French château and vineyard.

a yacht, top-of-the-range cars and a luxury home. Clowes was sentenced under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which said that prisoners could be considered for parole a third of the way through their sentence. Now, half the sentence must be served be-

fore parole is considered. Clowes' release was announced in the High Court

where his lawvers were embarking on a move to have the Home Secretary and the chairman of the Parole Board committed to prison for failing Tuesday for a decision.

The legal moves - described by Mr Justice Jowitt as "misconceived" and "quite improper" - were dropped when Clowes's lawyers heard that the board had reversed an earlier decision and recommended release. He refused to award costs.

The Parole Board originally refused Clowes parole last July and the High Court refused him leave to challenge the decision, upholding the board's view that he needed more time to come to terms



Clowes vesterday: "I've served my sentence

with his guilt and "examine his attitude to dishonesty". But in October he went to the Court of Appeal to overturn the ruling. Before the case came to trial, his lawyers and the Home Office agreed that the Parole Board would reconsider the case before Tuesday.

Yesterday Clowes, who was on resettlement leave from Sudbury Prison, Derbyshire. said: "The main thing is that I have served my sentence, hopefully with dignity." He said that after his release he would continue to seek to get his conviction for theft and fraud overturned, adding: "I believe that my case is taking on a political dimension that has been unhealthy". He will be now subject to a

supervision programme and is is barred from holding any directorship until 2007.

Scott accuses ministers of distortion

SIR RICHARD SCOTT dramatically entered the political battle over his report on the arms-to-Iraq affair last night by accusing ministers of selectively quoting his remarks to support their claims that the report had cleared them. in a surprising twist, Chris-topher Muttukumaru, secre-

By PHILIP WEBSTER that words used by Sir Richard at his post-publication POLITICAL EDITOR press conference — words subsequently seized on by ministers to back their claim that there had been no conspiracy - had been taken out

Clearly implying that the judge is unhappy with the way ministers, including John Major, have seized on an answer he gave at the press conference. Mr Muttukumaru says tary to the Scott inquiry, wrote in his letter that "out of context to Ian Lang, President of the one-line answers" are no sub-Board of Trade, suggesting

stitute for Sir Richard's considered views in his report. Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said last night that Mr Muttukumaru's letter revealed that the "Government's distortion of the Scott report is starting to unravel".

The judge's unexpected in-tervention gave a big boost to the Opposition parties, which are trying to keep the Scott affair boiling until Monday's debate in the Commons. The intervention came as Labour claimed to have forced

Kenneth Clarke to admit that William Waldegrave had misled MPs over the affair. A letter from the Chancellor

to Andrew Smith, the shadow Chief Secretary, appeared to accept that his deputy did mislead Parliament, although not intentionally.

Mr Lang won strong backing from Tory MPs for his ndling of the Government's Continued on page 2, col 5

> Philip Howard, page 16 Letters, page 17

University club votes for women

By David Charter **EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT**

NEARLY two centuries of clubland tradition ended yesterday when male members of the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club voted to admit women on equal

The latest battle for womens' rights in London's Pall Mall began when David But-ler, Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, whose great grandfather George helped found the club in 1830, announced his

resignation in a letter to The Times in January last year. Days later 69 heads of Oxford and Cambridge colleges also

left the club in protest.

The result of a postal ballot of the 3,333 full members declared yesterday was in favour of opening the oak-panelled doors to women by 2,012 votes to 345. Sir Bryan Nicholson, club chairman. said the result was "overwhelming" and hoped the club would progress into the century with "renewed vigour".

Mr Butler's wife Marilyn

College, Oxford, said last night: We are both very night pleased. Obviously, it is a great club with a great history and it should not have been in

this position." The club said 71 per cent of members voted. The last bal-lot, in 1993, was also in favour but was declared void under cent of members voted. There are currently 500 women associate members who are banned from the members



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LAW REPORT	



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Stuck at low ebb with the slick and the shallow

Hackney N & Stoke Newington): The unemployment rate for black males between the age of 18 and 24 is 60 per cent. That is the official figure: the actual figure is much higher. Jacques Arnold (C. Grave-

sham): "Will the hon lady give way? She asked for it." Ms Abbott: "Not from you. sweetheart."

There are days, and yesterday was one, when picking the funny bits from the previous night's Hansard provides the only relief from a mood of despair about the work of Parliament. Thursday's de-

continuing futile, overblown exchanges between John Major and Tony Blair about the Scott report. The posturing here (on both sides) is simply tedious. We just switch off.

Nor was my despair provoked by any great issue of principle, any deception, any huge mistake, any shocking dereliction of duty. Politics would be more interesting if these were more common.

No, the bleak mood arose from weariness alone: from reporting one idiotic scrap too many. As I watched MPs discussing the foundering of the Sea Em-

sions came as Sir Patrick

Mayhew, the Northern Ire-

that the Government was

bring the parties together.

chairman of the authority, and

Chris Ryder, who both want

the RUC to examine its prac-

tice of flying the Union Flag

over police stations, insisted

that they would not resign. Sir

the authority wask split.

Secretary, underlined



MATTHEW PARRIS **POLITICAL SKETCH**

press in Milford Haven, something snapped.

The Opposition strove to nurn this into a party political matter. Though, as MPs spoke, the promised inquiry had not even begun, ministers were accused already of failure and deception, one MP demanding that the Secretary of State "say sorry".

The latter's promise of an urgent and thorough investigation was called 'appallingly

complacent". MPs who had come only yesterday to the complexities of five centuries law and practice of marine salvage. MPs who could not distinguish between port and starboard and whose knowledge of tides, tugs and towlines would hardly fill one side of a small election leaflet, leapt in with opinions as firm, and language as violent, as their

bite-size chunks for butterfly minds we suppose our readers to prefer and which, if we persist in providing nothing else, they will learn to expect and politicians will learn to deliver. Here, however, uncutexcept that I have omitted the names of the two Labour MPs criticised, is an extract from a debate on Wednesday

batim at any length these

days, the news media res-

tricting ourselves to the sort of

Steven Norris expresses it better than I can. I omit the names of his targets because my purpose is not to criticise.

have as it seems we expect an Opposition to, and as, if they lose the next general election. the Tories will surely behave

The Minister for Transport in London (Mr Steven Norris): "One of the great advantages of Opposition is the out the slightest sense of responsibility. It has often been asserted that the less Opposition Member has, the better he is able to set out an array of irrelevancies tangled together to form some basis of an argument. That is what we heard from [an hon Member] His speech could be summarised by the glorious phrase 'As soon as possible just is not soon enough. It is the sort of phrase of which the Opposition are extraordinarily fond, and I let it lie on the record in all its ludicrousness for others to judge.

"I have some experience of [another bon Member] on safety matters. He is the sort of man who would terrify the average adult at the prospect of crossing a road, such is his intation with turning any incident into a crisis, any crisis into a drama, and any drama into a political event.

Tory feud

on single

currency

reopens

By Nicholas Wood

THE fragile Tory truce over a

single currency came under strain last night after one of

John Major's ministers had

defied him by speaking public-ly in favour of economic and

Euro-sceptics reacted an-

grily to the remarks by Antho-Nelson, a Trade Minister,

who called for a greater "clam-

our" from business for the

scheme and said that a single

market would work best with

a single currency. Sceptics insisted that he had breached

the Prime Minister's ban on

speculative debate" about a

single currency. "If one of our

ministers had said this, he

John Redwood, the former

Cabinet minister, said: "I am

extremely surprised by this

ministerial statement. It is

way out of line with the Prime

Minister's sensible views about how divisive the single

currency scheme is becoming

Feuding was renewed after

a transcript was published of

remarks made by Mr Nelson

at the World Economic Forum

in Davos, Switzerland at the

beginning of the month. He

told the meeting that it was

"undeniable that a single mar-

ket must work best with a

would be out,"

ightwinger declared.

monetary union.

Court says autistic woman can be sterilised

not the

A woman has won her legal fight to have her autistic daughter sterilised. A judge at Edinburgh's Court of Session backed her claim that tating" for her 32-year-old daughter, and that she could not be trusted to take contra-

ceptives indefinitely.

The ruling was attacked by campaigners for the mentally disabled who said there was no evidence that the woman was sexually active. It is the first such order in Scotland in a case where sterilisation

The 68-year-old mother who cannot be named, told the court that her daughter had been on the Pill since she was 13 and feared she might suffer ill-effects from perma-

Red tape surplus

Britain has created more red tape while implementing Brussels directives than any other member of the EU except Germany, according to a survey by the European Commission. The Government's Deregulation Task Force has identified 1,000 pieces of unnecessary legisla-tion. But a Cabinet Office spokesman said: "It is not as bad as you might think. You actually need a regulation to get rid of a regulation. We are beginning to make an impression on the number of unnecessary regulations."

Bloom's closure

Bloom's, one of the most famous Jewish landmarks in the East End of London, has closed after 75 years. The Whitechapel restaurant shut last week after a big fall in turnover and losing £500,000 in four years. According to the Jewish Chronicle today, Bloom's destiny was made 25 years ago with the departure of most of the remaining Jewish residents from the area, and it had only survived because it was on a mad to the subarbs, and near the City. It ry have been introduction of a "red route".

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Panorama wins

The BBC won a record 12 awards at the the Royal Television Society's annual journalism and sports awards last night, including two for its Panorama interview with the Princess of Wales, which was named interview of the year. Martin Bashir, the interviewer, was journalist of the year. Channel 4 dominated the current affairs awards, with The Dying Room, about children being left to die at Chinese orphanages, taking the international current affairs

Asylum plea

Muhammad al-Mass'ari, the Saudi dissident, launched his appeal against deportation Britain yesterday, claiming that his safety would be threatened if he was sent to Dominica. The 49-year-old professor alleged at the Immigration Appellate Authority hearing that the British Government wanted to expel him to protect its commercial relationship with Saudi Ara-bia, and that he would be a "reluctant pioneer" if he was forced to become the first person to seek asylum in Dominica.

New ball game

The former Scotland rugby captain Gavin Hastings has switched to American football, becoming kicker for the Scottish Claymores. Hastings. 34, will fly to America with the squad next monthfor a trial to play in the 1996 World League. The kicker is on the field for only a few minutes of each match. "I know how to kick a ball," he said. The technique is not going to be dramatically dif-ferent." The Claymores hope that his popularity will dou-ble their usual 9,000 crowd.

Major rekindles talks as summit hopes rise

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND RICHARD FORD

JOHN MAJOR began a fresh round of talks with senior politicians last night as he sought to break the deadlock in reaching a political settlement in Northern Ireland.

The initiative came as it was disclosed that the Home Secretary had been advised before the Docklands bombing that the IRA had developed a new mortar device and was moving weapons around. The Prime Minister unex-

pectedly arranged a string of meenings with Unionist and nationalist leaders, raising expectations that he was preparing for an early summit with John Bruton, the Irish Prime

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, met Mr Major just 48 hours after the two John Hume, leader of the

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE Northern Ireland Police

Authority passed motions of

no confidence in two of its

leading members who want to

make the RUC more accept-

Northern Ireland Secretary.

expressed disappointment yes-

terday at Wednesday night's

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the



Mitchell: meeting today

open to discussions on issues ture". The new talks began on the eve of today's meeting between Mr Major and George Mitchell, who chaired including referendums, elections to an assembly and intensive "proximity talks" to the three-man international Irish sources suggested that commission that drew up Sir Patrick's acceptance of the plans for disarming the possibility of all-party talks paramilitaries in Northern Ireland, Senator Mitchell, in

earlier ministerial suggestions Ulster police watchdog split

> tradition of resisting terrorism. Nationalists say that the RUC is unacceptable in its present form because it is too closely linked with the Unionist community.

Patrick told the Commons that The motions, which were tabled by Sheila Davidson, a it was a "thousand pities" that The dispute goes to the heart public relations executive, said that Mr Ryder and Mr Cook of policing in Northern Ireland. Unionists are opposed to discussing its work in public. decision. David Cook, the reforming the RUC because

yet considering moves to ban Sinn Fein from raising funds in America after the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. It was also disclosed in a

that President Clinton was not

report published last night that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was advised to maintain sweeping laws to combat terrorism even before the IRA ended its 17-month

He was given warning three weeks before the IRA attack at Docklands that terrorist orgerful as ever, had developed a new mortar device and were moving arms around North-ern Ireland.

Paramilitary organisations continued to intimidate jurors and witnesses, force traders to pay protection money and carried out robberies to raise funds, the annual review of the Prevention of Terrorism Act said. John Rowe, QC. author of the review, urged Mr Howard to retain the power to exclude individuals from England and Wales.

Bertie Ahern, the leader of Ireland's main opposition par ty. Fianna Fail. last night held his first meeting with Gerry Adams since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. Mr Ahern described the meeting at Dublin Castle, which lasted more than two hours, as one of his frankest encounters with Sinn

IKA's sleeper, page 5



White teacher wins race case

A TEACHER who claimed that Lambeth Council sejected her job application because she was white has won her case for racial discrimination. Ursula Gregory took the south London council to an industrial tribunal when she failed to get on a shortlist of six for a full-time post, teaching basic mathematics to a class made up of ethnic minorities. She was told she did not know enough about equal opportunities, although she had been doing the job as a temporary tutor at the Ferndale Centre, run by Lambeth's community education service.

without complaint. Mrs Gregory, from Swindon, said she was delighted by the tribunal's 17-page judg-ment. She will learn on Monday whether she is to receive financial compensation. She said: "I am very pleased and vindicated.*

The Commission for Racial Equality, which had supported Mrs Gregory's claim, wel-come the decision as impor-

reminder to all employers that applications should only be considered on relevant and job-related criteria." it said. Mrs Gregory had claimed at the tribunal hearing in

Croydon in September that she was at least as good as some of those shortlisted and could find no other explanation other than that she was being discriminated against on the ground of race. She was one of 29 people eight white and the others

black or Asian - to apply for the post. After interviews for the job in January 1993, the final shortlist consisted of five black applicants and a Welsh woman. The job went to a black man. The council told the tribu-

nal that Mrs Gregory was turned down because she had failed to show sufficient understanding of equal opportunities issues. Monica Jones, a member of the selection panel. said: "Her use of words like 'immigrant' was emotive. And she didn't explore the issue of inner-city deprivation."

single currency". He equated a single currency with "progress" and accused sceptics of trying to

persuade their fellow countrymen that they would be better off keeping the pound and being paid in a currency "which has been devaluing year by year". He added: "How is it that they [sceptics] can ride under a banner which proclaims poor but free'."
Mr Nelson's officials de

m Europe."

fended his remarks last night, saying that they had been made under "Chatham House rules", meaning that they were not to be reported. They said that their minister had been speaking off the cuff and had

not put out a text.

Downing Street officials said that Mr Nelson's speech had to be seen in the context of his solid support for the collective position of the Government. But they would not be drawn on whether Mr Nelson had defied the Cabinet gagging order.

Prime Minister pleads with Thurnham to stay in party

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

THE Prime Minister made a final attempt last night to prevent his Commons majority from slipping to two with a personal appeal to Peter Thurnham to stay in the parliamentary party.

Mr Thurnham. MP for Bolton NE, irritated at various aspects of the Government's recent performance, including its response to the Scott report, will announce today whether he is resigning the whip to sit in the Commons as an independent Conservative.

would be treated officially as a minority party. The result, on paper, would be to halve the Government's majority to two. This would drop to one if it loses the Staffordshire South East by-election. Mr Thumbam's main grievance with the Tories has

been the decision of the local party in the Westmorland & Lonsdale constituency, where he lives, not even to interview him for the seat

most issues it will no longer be able to rely on him, and he standing down. Mr Thurnham had already arnounced he was standing down from his present seat. where he has a 185 majority over Labour.

He has had meetings with party whips and ministers this week, including William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the two most strongly criticised in the Scott report, but they have apparently failed to change his mind. It appeared last night that he would again consult his

Although that means he will when Michael Jopling, the support the Government on sitting MP, announced he was constituency chairman before

Scott accuses ministers of distortion

Continued from page ! response to the Scott report when he answer. Any soundbite answer, any summary one-line answer is bound to be appeared before the 1922 Committee last a distortion of what I have taken care to

night. But at least one MP, Quentin Davies (Stamford), expressed reservations, and there could be a handful of Tory rebels in Monday's debate. The judge's intervention was prompted

by the way ministers have consistently quoted him as saying that there was no conspiracy and no cover up, even though the report contains no such statement. At his press conference last Thursday, however, Sir Richard was asked if it

read the report if they wanted to know his view on the subjects put to him." would be a fair summary to say that there had been no conspiracy and no cover up. Initially he replied: "I think that is a fair summary." But he went on to qualify his

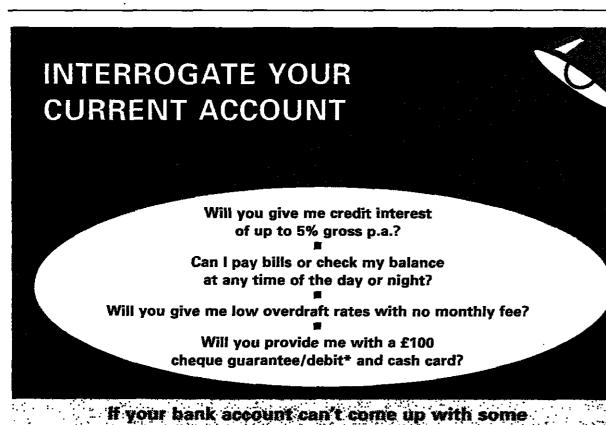
express in the report," he said. Parliament. The judge is apparently irritated because ministers have relied on only the first part of his answer. Mr Muttukumaru's letter says Sir Richard's answers "are being selectively used" adding: "Throughout the press conference, Sir Richard invited questioners to

In the Commons, yesterday, Tony Blair seized on Mr Clarke's apparent admis-sion that Mr Waldegrave had misled Parliament. This related but separate row centres on a Treasury press release about

the report's contents which Labour claims wrongly claimed that Mr Waldegrave had been acquitted of misleading

Mr Clarke yesterday accepted that the statement was wrong, saying: "William and I are both clear that the word intentionally should have preceded 'misled ... Equally, it is quite clear from the context that this was a drafting error ... The question being addressed was whether Sir Richard Scott said William Waldegrave intentionally misled Parliament. As the press notice rightly says, the answer to this question is plainly 'no'."

> Philip Howard, page 16 Letters, page 17



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Alicance & Laccester Building Society, Hernage House, 61 Southgates, Leacester, LET SRE

News black-out by Pakistan as Princess sees young cancer victims on controversial Imran visit

Tears of the royal caller who officially was not there at all

By Alan Hamilton in London and Zahir Hussain in Lahore

VISIBLY moved by the distress of young patients but seemingly oblivious to the political controversy surrounding her presence, the Princes of Wales yesterday toured Imran Khan's cancer hospital in Lahore.

hospital in Lahore.
Tension between the hospital authorities and the Pakistani government was apparent during the Princess's tour. as part of her private visit to Pakistan at the invitation of the country's former cricket captain.

Twenty plain-clothes sec-urity officers assigned by the local authority to guard the Princess were refused admission to the hospital when she arrived and were asked by Dr. Nousherwan Burki, the clinic's chief executive, to leave the building. Unusually, no official government representative accompanied the Princess, and her visit received no coverage from Pakistan's Bhutto, the Prime Minister.

THE Prince of Wales will

visit a new Hindu temple in

London, the first and largest

traditional temple outside

He will spend an hour and

a half at the ornate £12

million Swaminarayan Hin-

du temple at Neasden, north

London, in a visit which has

been warmly welcomed by the Hindu community and

criticised by the evangelical Church Society.

Hindus have been travel-ling from throughout the life of the Hindu comic country to visit and pray at ity," a spokesman said.

India, next week.



Moved: the Princess at the hospital

have accused Imran of using the visit of the self-styled "Queen of Hearts" for his

Imran and his British wife Prince's temple visit

Buckingham Palace said

the visit to the temple was

being organised in response to an invitation. This is an

opportunity to visit what I understand is the most

prominent Hindu temple in Britain and to see something

of the religious and cultural

entirely on voluntary dona-tions. She looked much more relaxed when, accompanied by Imran, his wife and his mother-in-law, Annabel welcomed by Hindus Goldsmith, she attended a party to celebrate Eid, the Muslim festival marking the By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT end of Ramadan. In accordance with Islamic custom, the temple since it opened she covered her head with a last August. It is also deeply scarf when a verse of the involved in education pro-Koran was read. grammes for young Hindus and in social care pro-

the boy's mother.

insisted that the Princess's visit was purely humanitar-ian, and to help raise funds for the hespital. Imran himself criticised the Pakistani

government for failing to support the hospital. The

Princess travelled to Pakistan in Sir James's aircraft.

Wearing traditional local dress of long shirt and baggy trousers, she displayed barely

concealed grief as she toured wards of the Shaukat

Khanum clinic, founded by Imran in memory of his mother, who died of cancer. Tears filled her eyes as she

met Adnan Rovena, a young

cancer victim facing amputa-

tion of both legs in a desperate effort to save his life. "What

can we do to save his life?" the Princess asked doctors and

The Princess looked grim as she emerged from the hospital, which treates 8,000

patients a year and is run

"The visit probably provid-ed an emotional outlet for the Princess, who is passing through a difficult time," one woman staff member of the hospital said. Last night the Princess was 90 minutes late for a £200-a-head fund-raising dinner at the hospital. Most of the 500 guests were businessmen and friends of Imran Khan, including Wasim Akram, Pakislan's



The Princess with Imran and Jemima Khan, left, and Lady Annabel, right, the authorities claim her visit has a political motive

Designers hope to cash in on latest fashion

By Andrew Pierce

THE Princess of Wales, wearing Bond Street's version of the traditional Pakistani national costume, could start a new fashion trend, leading designers said last night. Mass-produced versions of the

Princess's shimmering pink silk shalwar kameez — loose-fitting trousers, long shirt, and dapatta wrapped around her neck - sell for as little as £15 in the East End of London. The Princess's outfit, made by the leading British designer Catherine Walker, cost about a hundred times as much and was more chic than conservative. Pakistani political commentators, who have criticised her decision to visit Imran Khan, a political oppo-

Bhutto, praised her taste in haute couture. She had learnt from the mistake of her last visit to Pakistan in 1991 when she offended some Muslims by walking around Lahore's ancient Badshahi Mosque in a dress that revealed her knees. Jemima Khan, wife of Imran Khan, wore a similar creation to the Princess yesterday, but adhered to strict Muslim

tradition by covering her hair.

Zandra Rhodes, a leading British designer of Eastern silk and chiffon costumes, believed there would be a knock-on effect in Britain. Speaking from her home in California, where Princess Diana's taste in fashion was once again dominating the television news, Ms Rhodes said: "Princess

wears. Whenever I go to India or Pakistan I always wear a shalwar kameez. They are cool, practical and please your hosts. I suspect now that she has been photographed wearing one, the Princess, who is something of a role model, could start a big trend."

Leading fashion sellers in London agreed. A photo spread of models wearing shalwar kameez was fea-tured in a recent issue of Vogue. At Yazz International, in Baker Street, central London, similar outfits sell for between £300 and £600.

The Pakistani shop sells the coun try's leading designers, including Maheen and Tahiun Tahilliani, who designed outfits for Jemima Khan's wedding. Its most expensive designs

who runs the business, said: "The shalwar kameez makes women feel so feminine because it is soft and flowing. They are becoming so popular in Britain that women even wear them as wedding suits.

"The colours this year are pastel. pinks and lime green. I thought Princess Diana looked beautiful. She is a wonderful advertisement for our national costume."

For those on a more modest income, however, the Pakistani High Commission in London recommends shops near Upton Park, the home of West Ham Football Club. "They cost as little as £15. Or you could try Wembley or Southall. Plenty there to choose from," the receptionist said.

Murder riddle outlives last member of the cast

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE last survivor of the Dominici clan, at the centre of one of the most sensational and mysterious murder cases of the 1950s, has died in

Gustave Dominici, who died at the age of 76, claimed in August 1952 to have sturnbled across the bodies of three British holidaymakers. The discovery led to one of the most tortuous of French murder investigations, which remains unresolved.

The victims were Sir Jack Drummond, a nutritional expert and former senior scientific adviser to the British Government, his wife Ann and their daughter Elizabeth. The Drummonds, on holiday from their home in Nottingham, had been camping over-night on land owned by the Dominicis, a family of peasant farmers, at Lurs, near Digneles-Bains in Provence.

Sir Jack, 61, and his wife, 46, had been shot. Their daughter, 10, had been battered to death with a rifle butt. Suspicion immediately fell on the Dominicis but of the 17 adults in the family, Gustave, the



Gustave his evidence sent father to prison

youngest son and then 33, was the only one who would talk. Gustave, who was alleged to have told someone in a neighbouring village that Elizabeth was still breathing when he found her, was sentenced to two months in prison for depraved indifference in failing to give her assistance. Then, at the end of a long interrogation, Gustave broke down and said that the murderer was his father. Gaston, patriarch of the clan, then

aged 75. Gustave's allegation was later backed by his brother Clovis, but then Gustave retracted his evidence, reaffirmed it, and retracted it again before a trial which became one of the most sensational France had known.

The affair, during which Gaston made a confession, also later retracted, saying that he had killed the Drummonds because Sir Jack had surprised him embracing Lady Drummond, gripped the country. At one point Gaston tried to commit suicide during a re-enaciment of the murder by leaping into a ravine.

Regarded by some as a monster and nicknamed the Wild Boar of La Grande Terre the name of his farm — Gaston was seen by others as a dignified old man who could not possibly have turned triple

killer so late in life. Sir Jack's position as a government adviser led to speculation that foreign agents might have been involved. Another theory was that his connections with the wartime resistance in the area were somehow involved. Gaston Dominici was found guilty at the end of an 11-day



Sir Jack Drummond with his wife and daughter. Gustave claimed he stumbled across their bodies

trial in 1954, in the course of which members of the family shouted accusations against each other across the court. The old man was sentenced to be guillotined and was held under death sentence for three years, but there was widespread disquiet about the conflicting evidence, gaps in the prosecution case and alleged

partiality by the judge. In 1957 Dominici was reprieved and given a sentence of life imprisonment instead. In 1960, eight years after the killings, he was pardoned on Bastille Day by President de Gaulle and released. He left prison frail and walking with sticks, but still vowing that he would find the real murderer. The local council protested

against his being allowed to return to the area where his supposed crime had been committed, and his family remained divided, but the old man continued to give interviews protesting his innocence and demanding a retrial. He died in 1965.

A further twist came with the alleged confessions of a German, Wilhelm Bartowski, who was claimed to have told British Special Investigation Branch officers that he and three colleagues had murdered the Drummonds during a robbery. Gustave died in hospital in

Digne-les-Bains, and was butied yesterday in the village cemetery at Peyruis, where his father also lies.

Road-rage attacker left me sobbing in street

EMMA WILKINS, a Times reporter, right, yesterday be-came another victim of road rage. She describes how a minor traffic accident escalat-

It was 10.15am, I was late for work, and the traffic along the Chelsea Embankment was moving like glue. As the car ahead slowed to a halt, I was forced to brake. The car be-

hind never made it. There was a dull thud.) looked in my rear-view mirror and was reassured to see that the driver was a woman. She

had distinctive red hair. There was no damage to either vehicle. But the other driver, probably in her forties, leapt out of her car incoherent with rage, unleashing a volley of four-letter words. I got out to face her, initially too surprised to be scared.

"Look what you have done to my car." she screamed. I looked. Nothing. The collision had not even dislodged the snow from her car's bonnet. She swept the snow off and pointed to it again: "LOOK AT IT!" It was immaculate.

Having suggested calmly that we exchange addresses, I



Emma Wilkins: dreads driving after incident

pointed out that she had gone into my car — it was her fault. She lunged at me, grabbed my hair, and tried to smash my face on to the bonnet of her car. She was screaming at me: 🕶 look at it!"

I broke free, ran to my car and dialled 999 on my mobile telephone and said what was happening. My attacker ran at me again and tried to snatch the phone away.

I ran towards a stationary cab with two passengers inside, banged on the window and begged for help. "Sorry, love," the driver said, pulling away. I tried to flag down a motorcyclist. He did not stop. A cyclist ignored my plea for help. I rang the police again,

sobbing down the phone. The assailant came at me again and bit me on the face above my right eyebrow. I could smell alcohol on her

People began to appear on the scene. A man in his fifties had seen everything from his flat and had telephoned the police. The woman sped off in her white estate car. I took down her registration

The police arrived within minutes. One officer said that if the skin on my face had been broken I would have needed an HIV test. I was shaking and went into deep shock. dread driving again. The AA said only a few cases

of road rage went as far as physical assault but that the 90 per cent of drivers had experienced degrees of road rage, from obscene gestures to physical assault.

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Pollution control chief predicts decade of damage after slick spreads along 240 miles of coastline

Tanker inquiry to focus on salvage operation

By Nick Nuttall environment correspondent

AN INDEPENDENT inquiry into the Sea Empress accident was ordered by the Government yesterday as its senior marine pollution expert said oil pollution could damage the Welsh coast for a decade.

Sir George Young, the

Welsh coast for a decade.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told the Commons that the inquiry by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch would look into the salvage operations on the tanker as well as the reasons for the accident, which led to most of the cargo of 147,000 most of the cargo of 147,000 mons leaking into inlets and coastal waters. The inquiry was criticised as "not an adequate response" by Clare Short, Shadow Transport Sea where sea bass s marked as such as eet of the cargo of 147,000 marshes and mu shellfish and organisms lived, decade to recover Michael Hisk manager of Mil Port Authority, so hindsight it might better to leave to control unit, said control unit, said ecological recover to coastal system. You was such as eet of the cargo of 147,000 marshes and mu shellfish and organisms lived, decade to recover Michael Hisk manager of Mil Port Authority, so hindsight it might better to leave to coastal system. You was such as eet of the cargo of 147,000 marshes and mu shellfish and organisms lived, decade to recover Michael Hisk manager of Mil Port Authority, so hindsight it might be the coastal system. You was such as eet of the cargo of 147,000 marshes and mu shellfish and organisms lived, decade to recover Michael Hisk manager of Mil Port Authority, so hindsight it might be the coastal system. You was such as each system. You was

disaster off Shetland.

Last night the slick, a mixture of sheen and patches of heavy oil, was estimated to be 60 miles long, stretching from Worms Head off the Gower Peninsula, a National Trust area, to Ramsey Island, north of Milford Haven and a Royal

an inquiry after the 1993 Braer

Society for the Protection of Birds reserve. Experts said that it covered 240 miles of meandering coastline.

David Bedborough, chief scientist at the Department of Transport's marine pollution control unit, said: "In terms of ecological recovery, it will now depend on the energy of the coastal system. Very exposed coastlines can expect recovery in two years." Quieter, calmer areas such as eel grass sites where sea bass spawned, salt marshes and mudflats where shellfish and other marine organisms lived, could take a decade to recover.

Michael Hislop, general manager of Milford Haven Port Authority, said that with hindsight it might have been better to leave the Sea Empress where she had initially settled rather than trying to refloat her. The initial refloating at the end of last week made matters worse by putting the tanker into a deep pool on the sea bed. With heavy water seeping into her tanks, she became immobile uptil sufficient compressed air



Sir George: announced an independent inquiry

to lighten her load could be pumped on board. "But Stephen Dennison of the Cory Salvage Company, one of the firms involved in the

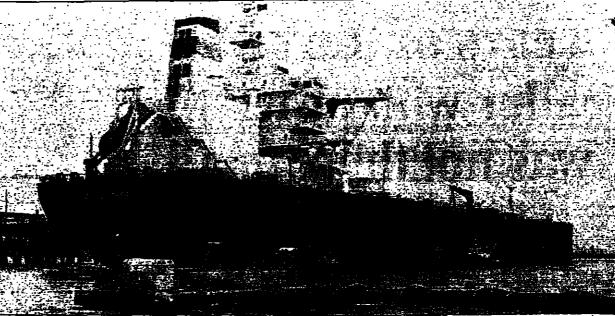
salvage, rejected the suggestion. The engine room could have flooded and the Sea Empress would have been lost if it had stayed on the rocks during the storms, he said. Ministers will be under pressure to consider putting a 24-hour standby at Milford Haven. Chris Harris, chief executive of the Coastguard agency, said the Donaldson report had concluded that southwest Wales was not a priority "in terms of the sensitivity of coastline, amount of traffic and weather". Ministers decided to deploy two specialist tugs, choosing the Dover Straits and northwest Scotland.

The admission by Mr Har-

ris outraged environmentalists. A spokeswoman for the World Wide Fund for Nature said Milford Haven was one of Britain's busiest ports. There are about 7,400 vessel movements a year, including 3,000 tanker movements.

The area is dotted with over a dozen sites of special scientific interest, the region is Britain's only coastal national park and the haven area is a proposed Special Area of Conservation under the new European Union habitats and species directive.

Last night the Sea Empress remained lashed to the disused Esso jetty where she was berthed on Tuesday night, still leaking oil.



A black boom stretches around the Sea Empress to try to contain oil still leaking from the ship yesterday

Desperate fishermen reduced to tears

By ROBIN YOUN

THE Sea Empress disaster threatens to finish an international trade in shellfish which has been one of the main sources of employment and income in southwest Wales.

Each week, a fleet of six or seven articulated vivier trucks called to collect the local catch of live lobsters, crabs, crawfish and prawns, for transport to Spain. France and Italy. By
yesterday faxes had been received from all those foreign
markets saying they did not
want any supplies from Milford Haven while the emer-

gency continued.

The fishermen have called a voluntary halt to operations, and the firms that took their catch abroad have joined them in setting up a Sea Empress Fisheries Disaster

Association to campaign for compensation.

Last year's sales of lobsters were worth £550,000 to local fishermen, and their catch of the local crawfish fetched almost as much.

In addition to edible crabs, the area had also built up a trade in spider, velvet swimmer and green crabs, appreciated on the Continent though not consumed in Britain. The

best prices are for the velvet swimmers, which are used in Spain in soups and paella. Dave Bray, of the Welsh

Dave Bray, of the Weish Coastal Inshore Fishermen's Association, said yesterday. The fishermen here live from hand to mouth, and we have had them on the telephone crying. They do not know how they are going to pay their bills. It is a catastrophe in a high unemployment area."

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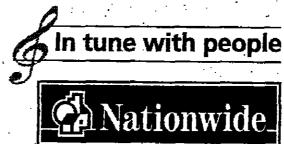
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to their rightful Proof of our aim to put customers first. THE BUILDING SOCIETY,

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Newbury bypass changes reduce impact on wildlife

By Michael Hornsby, countryside correspondent

CHANGES are to be made to the design of the Newbury bypass in Berkshire to lessen its impact on wildlife and the countryside, it was announced yesterday.

The Highways Agency, the building arm of the Department of Transport, insisted that the decision had nothing to do with the weeks of protest by environmental pressure groups opposed to the new road. In a statement last night, the agency said the design modification had been "under consideration for some time and was discussed with English Nature [the Government's conservation adviser]."

The change will widen the spans of four bridges carrying the bypass over rivers in the Kerinet and Lambourn valleys, which are classified as sites of special scientific interest. David Henshilwood, of English Nature, said: "The bridge supports will now be set back from the rivers leaving wider corridors along the banks through which wild-life can move. This will definitely be an improvement on earlier plans under which the supports would have been placed right at the rivers'

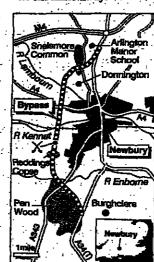
The changes fall short of the original recommendation by English Nature and the National Rivers Authority that the bypass should be carried through the valleys on a value to allow wildlife to pass underneath, but this was rejected as too costly.

Tony Juniper, deputy campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, dismissed the de-

sign changes as unconvincing.

"Far from reassuring the public that environmental concerns are being addressed, the Government has merely highlighted the inadequate and shoddy process that led to the approval of the road in the first place," he said.

Meanwhile security guards hired by the Highways Agency to keep protesters away from the bypass could themselves be facing eviction. About 400 security staff are temporarily housed in decaying huts at a former military base at the milisges of Steventon, Oxfordshire, Local residents want the guards removed. They blame the men for provoking brawis in local pubs and are angry about the noise and pollution caused by the buses which ferry the guards to and from the bypass site ten miles away.



Farmer halts riders in his own backyard

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SHEEP farmer who represented himself in the High Court was celebrating last night after a victory over the Department of the Environment that will prevent riders taking their horses "right through his courtyard".

Mr Justice Judge told Paul Williamson: "This must be great for you. You are a litigant-in-person taking on the Secretary of State and you have been told that you are right. Thank you for coming to court today and, if I may say so, congratulations."

Mr Williamson, 47, said outside court that he had been through "years of hell" after a track across his land at Musbury, near Ammister, Devon, had been declared a bridleway.

He had come to court expecting a battle with government lawyers. However, in a surprise move, the department backed down, conceded that the classification should be restinded and agreed to pay all his costs.

Mr Williamson's troubles began in 1987 when the British Horse Society applied to Devon County Council to open the track to equestrians, claiming its use as a bridleway since time imme-

temporarily. The county council refused, but the society then went on to win an appeal held before a planning inspector in March 1991, after a public inquiry.

The council was ordered to modify the area's definitive map to show the track as a bridleway, which it did in November 1991.

The court was told yesterday that John Gummer, the present Environment Secretary, conceded that the department had "misunderstood" a letter from Mr Williamson as meaning that the farmer did not wish to be heard by the

The judge said that the decision to classify the track as a bridleway would be overturned, with Mr Gum-

mer's consent.



legs shaved by laser could star smooth for life

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Terrorist 'triggered bus bomb by standing up'

IRA sleeper fooled neighbours

and Saturday nights he would hire a mini-cab to take him on

a £5 journey from Lewisham

train to work as a labourer.

He was for several weeks a

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE bomb which killed IRA terrorist Ed O'Brien exploded close to his right leg, the inquest into his death was told

O'Brien died from injuries to his chest and lower limbs when the bomb he was transporting exploded as he trav-elled on a 171 bus in the Aldwych, central London, on Sunday night, Dr Jain West, a. Home Office pathologist, told Westminster Coronor's Court Police believe the bomb was triggered as O'Brien stood up to get off the bus to plant it.

The inquest was told the O'Brien, 21, from Gorey, Co Werhard had been living since

Wexford, had been living since last November at an address Lewisham, southeast London. He had been visually identified at Westminster Public Mortuary on February-21 by Darren Cullen, a security officer and friend since childhood. In written evidence, he said O'Brien had lived at 117. George Lane, Lewisham.

Detective Superintendent Valliam Emerton, from the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said



Ramesh Patel, who queried O'Brien's age, and Marcus Bowery, his next-door neighbour

identify O'Brien through fin-gerprint records. Asked by Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, if O'Brien had used aliases, Mr to The Swan pub in Stockwell Emerton said it was possible.

"but I believe him to be Edward Miles O'Brien". Dr Knapman adjourned the inquest until March 6. From his bedsit O'Brien

pipe layer for RailTrack. He had a telephone line played out the role of an IRA installed in the first-floor flat, "sleeper", taking care to one of four in a converted appear neither too secretive detached house, and he not nor too obtrusive. On Friday bother to make the number ex-

have paid his E75 a-week rent in cash to the landlord and landlady, believed to be Anthony and Marie Carley, who ran The George pub down the road until Mr Carley's ill health forced him to give it up.

When detectives broke into O'Brien's flat they found a large quantity of explosives. Neighbours were stunned to find they had been living within yards of what they were yesterday calling an IRA

The corner house, with its huge garden and garage, is shabby but neatly kept. Yesterday a pane of glass in the front door was boarded. up, indicating that the police had forced an entry.
O'Brien's next-door neighbour, Marcus Bowery, 22, is a

barman at the Halfway to to enjoy Irish evenings. Each Heaven pub in Charing Cross, - morning he would catch a : central London. He was working there on the night O'Bri-en's bomb exploded and heard the bang. "I'm just glad they didn't go off in the house," he said. "If he made that mistake on the bus, it's

The manager of the Easy

Rider mini-cab firm near O'Brien's home said: "I picked him up a couple of times and some of the lads got a few fares from him. I'm glad that he took the bus that night and not one of our cabs."

Bar staff at The Swan, a big south London venue for live bands, many of them Irish. said: You get literally hun-dreds of irishmen in here and half of them are probably called O'Brien. It's a good place to mingle and stay anonymous if you wanted to."

Ramesh Patel, 44, who runs the shop where O'Brien often stopped on his way to work for tigarettes, said: "He used to come in here regularly, and he always asked for the same thing: 20 Benson & Hedges. He looked too young to smoke - about 15 or 16 - and one of the first times he came in I

"He would not say a word except for asking for his cigarettes. I last saw him about a week to ten days ago. on behind the closed doors of his flat. I can't believe it."

asked him how old he was.

Yesterday, on George Lane,



A police guard remains outside O'Brien's first-floor flat in George Lane, Lewisham

whurth Legs shaved by angesie laser could stay lact on w smooth for life

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

WOMEN may never need to shave their legs again as British scientists come close to solving the problem of un-wanted hair.

A breakthrough in laser technology could revolution ise the cosmetics industry, making creams, electrolysis and women's razors redundant. The Ruby Laser, devel oped in Wales, has produced "extremely successful" results. during a trial by plastic surons. It could be available for clinical and cosmetic use within a few years. Each machine costs £70,000 but, if

popular, the price would fall. The idea came by chance to In theory, the follice should Professor Mare Clement of be destroyed by frying the the Swansea Institute of granules. The surrounding Higher Education, who was skin is diffiarmed. experimenting with lasers ten. The technique works best years ago when he acciden on dark hairs because they beam of light. "I noticed later that the area hit by the laser was bald and the hair has never grown back," he said.

Three years ago he men-tioned his accident to David Gault, a plastic surgeon from the Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, northwest London Professor Clement is also director of research and

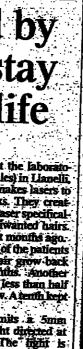
development at the laborato-ries of SLS (Wales) in Llanelli, Dyfed, which makes lasers to treat birthmarks. They created a prototype laser specifically to remove unwanted hairs. Trials began six months ago.

So far a third of the patients have had no hair grow back after four months. Another third have seen less than half their hair regrow. A tenth kept all their later

The laser emits a 5mm beam of red light directed at bair follicles. The light is absorbed by granules of melanin — the pignicut in hair — and trimed into heat energy.

useful because they are also the most visible and unsightly. More experiments will be needed to test its effectiveness

Communed to existing depiefficient and possibly perma-nent," said Mr Gantt, "It has



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inkens will appear until Saturday, March 9, 1996. By collecting 21 tokens,

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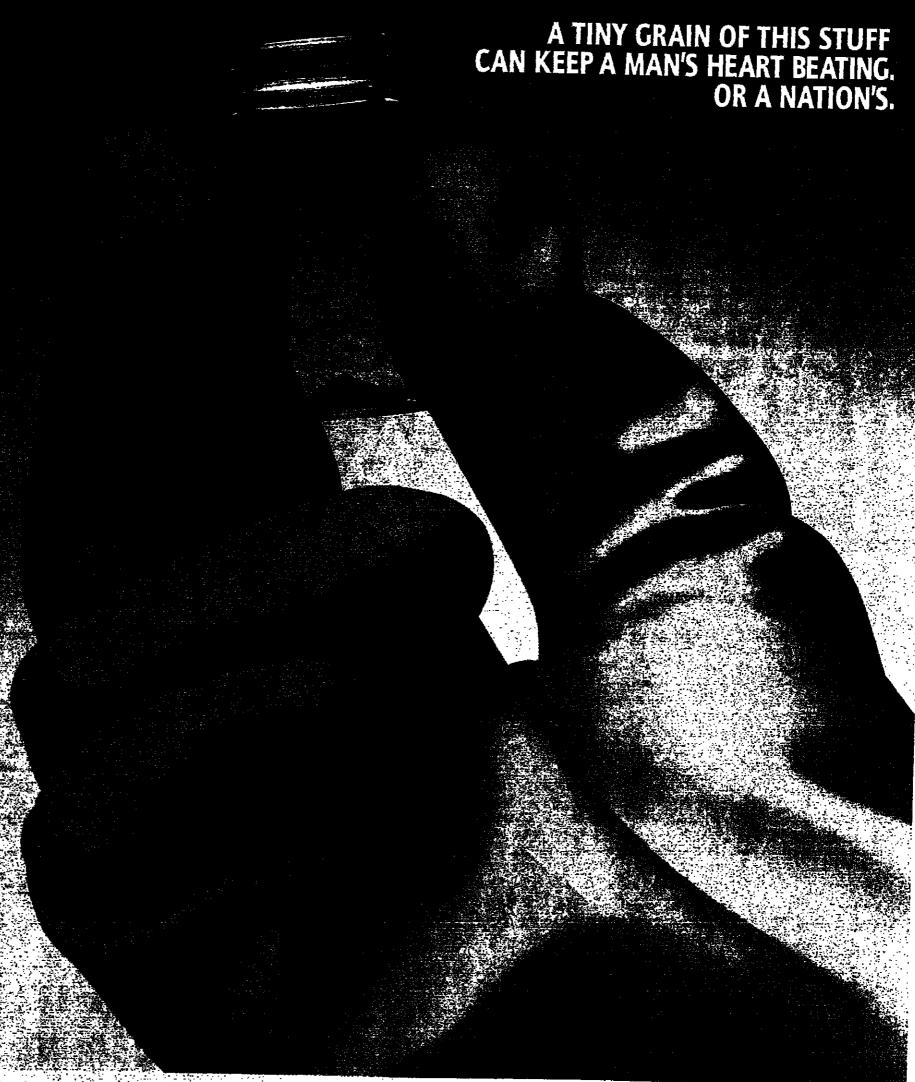
These elements can then be mixed together

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Department defends segregated RE

Shephard refuses to order inspection of Muslim lessons

By David Charter, education correspondent

GILLIAN SHEPHARD defended separate religious education lessons for Muslim ed calls to send school inspectors to check the standard and content of segregated religious teaching at a Birmingham primary school.

A spokeswoman for Mrs Shephard said she was confi-dent that Birchfield Primary School in Aston was meeting its legal requirement to give its 700 pupils religious education which was in the main

The situation is being stud-ied closely in Batley, West Yorkshire, where 1,500 Musfim children have missed religious education lessons for two months after being with-drawn by parents. Kirklees Borough Council said that talks with parents had been delayed during Ramadan but

would take place soon, Pupils at Birchfield are offered a choice of RE with their form teacher. Seventy per cent of the 700 children, almost all of them Muslims, opt for the Muslim teacher.

A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "As we understand it both classes are within the agreed syllabus." Birmingham City Council said the head teacher had assured them this was the case. However. Muhammad Mukadam, a school governor, said yesterday: "Why on earth would we separate children and teach them the same thing? That makes no sense at all. When we teach Muslim children we teach from the Koran. We have separated the children because we feel it is right to teach Muslim children that on other children." Mrs Shephard rejected a call from Lady Olga Maitland, a member of the Commons education committee, to send school inspectors to check the lessons. Lady Olga said she feared activists" were using religion

to further political purposes and create divisions in society "I have nothing against child-ren from Islamic families being educated in their own faith. But what we seem to have here is Islamic education masquerading as balanced RE. If there is a dispute about what exactly is being taught, experienced education inspectors should be sent to sit in on these lessons to find out exactly what is going on."

The syllabus for religious education is agreed at a local level and the 1988 Education Reform Act states it "must reflect the fact that religious



Critics fear separate religious classes are being used for political education and will divide society

traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions." The Act says parents can withdraw children from religious worship or education if they do not want the child to receive religious education in accordance with

the school's basic curriculum". Campaigners against multi-

Education and Employment knowledge this was a legal loophole which could lead to widespread rejection of the current syllabus by Muslim parents. Fred Naylor, secretary of the Parental Alliance Choice in Education, said Birchfield was simply making alternative provision for these children. He said: The real issue is that the Department

for Education has been misrepresenting the law. What is happening at Birchfield is a major breakthrough and Mrs Shephard is still not recognising it. This destroys the idea of multi-faith RE as the only politically correct form of RE British schools."

Malik Fazal Hussain, a member of the Birmingham. Standing Advisory Conference on RE, which devised the

syllabus for city schools, said the classes taken by the Muslim teacher were "mostly Is lam, though Christianity is covered". Mr Hussain, secre-tary of the Muslim Liaison Committee, said: "The majority of children at the school are Muslim, therefore the overal religious education should be

Leading article, page 17



Daniel to be ENO's music chief

By DALYA ALBERGE

PAUL DANIEL has been appointed music director of English National Opera, replacing Sian Edwards, who left amid controversy last autumn.

Daniel, 37, has won great respect in his six years as music director at Opera North, also being acclaimed as a guest conductor. He moves to the ENO next year. Dennis Marks, ENO's general director, said he was looking forward to the collaboration. Rodney Milnes, chief opera critic of The Times, said it was "a great coup" for ENO. "It will do morale a huge amount of good after their troubled times. Daniel is meticulously well-prepared. He has the ear for the sound he wants and gets it. He's an inspiration." Daniel read music at Cambridge, and studied conducting at the Guildhail. He has previously spent five years at ENO, coaching singers. He recalled: "You make a big fuss

Takeover puts Elstree back in the picture

Elstree Studios, Hertford-shire is being bought from debt-ridden Brent Walker by Hertsmere Borough Council, which is paying an undislease the 15.5-acre site and its three studio buildings to film makers. The deal allows Brent Walker to avoid a High Court case due to start on March 4. It was being sued for allegedly failing to honour the original planning agreement to rebuild the studios for 25 years of tele-

Rail inquiry

A train from Reading, Bert shire, hit buffers at London's Paddington station yester-day, just a week after a train hit buffers at Bourne End. Buckinghamshire. Nobody was hurt. Both turbo diesels were run by Thames Trains. An inquiry is under way.

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Tube arrests

A crackdown on pickpocket on the London Undergroun brought 146 arrests in three months. British Transport Police said, compared with 38 arrests over the corresponding period last year. Detection rates improved from 2 per cent to 9 per cent. Seaman killed

A seaman was blown over-

board and died in the Humber near Brough when an explosion in the hold of a German-owned coaster, Paloma I. blew off her hatches. Another man suffered serious burns. The vessel carried 1,700 tonnes of coke.

Death verdict

Frank Cummins, 64, who died during emergency surgety after being trapped for 50 minutes in a lift at Withington Hospital on his way to theatre after a heart attack, died from natural ner recorded.

No headway

Nicholas Gcaleka, the tribal chief, was disappointed yesterday after a munumified head in a Highland museum at Dingwall proved not to be his great-great-uncle. The V skull had straight red hair. ears and no bullet hole.

Spitfires gather

More than 25 Spitfire fighters, the largest number seen in public since 1945, will be at the Imperial War Museum. Duxford, Cambridgeshire, on May 6 for the Spitlire Diamond Jubilee Air Show.

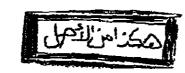
A report "Drugs are luring London outlaws to the Wild West" (December 9) referred "an aerodrome on the

Al28" which had "been used by drug couriers". We wish to make it clear that this did not: and was never meant to, refer to Mr Terence Holding. whose home in Essex incorporates an zerodrome alongside the Al28. We regret any embarrassment caused by the



POST CODE





Driving for hours delays men on the road to fatherhood

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

COMMUTING by car can cut crases. Dr Mieusset was father. Couples take four to six months longer to achieve a pregnancy if the man spends more than three hours a day in his car, according to a study by French researchers.

The reason was probably lower sperm counts caused by the increased temperature of the testicles from sitting so-long in a fixed position, said Dr Roger Micusset of a masculine sterility centre at the University Hospital in Toulouse. Above a certain temperature, sperm production

speaking at a London press conference at which Dr Stewart Irvine, of the Medical Research Council's reproductive biology unit at Edin-burgh, reported declining sperm counts in Scots, the first time such declines have been

identified in Britain. A team led by Dr Irvine reports in the British Medical Journal that they studied S77 semen donors. The men split into four roughly equal groups, born either before 1959, from 1960-64, 1965-69 or

the lower the sperm count.

The decline appears to be about 2 per cent a year, falling from 98 million sperm per millitre in the oldest group to 78 million in the younges

Dr Irvine says that these levels are unlikely to affect fertility yet, but the trend is worrying. If sustained it would mean that men born about the middle of next century would have sperm levels low enough to be of great concern."

The causes of the decline remain a mystery, especially as Dr Mieusset's group in Toulouse has found no similar decline there. But studies in Paris and in Denmark have shown sperm counts falling.

In an editorial in the BMJ, Professor David de Kretser of Monash University in Melbourne suggests that chemicals in the environment may be the culprit. Traces of chemicals that mimic the effect of the certifician borroome may inoestrogen hormones may in-fluence the foetus in the womb, producing long-term effects that limit the later ability to produce sperm.

A huge range of such chemicals could be responsible. Dr Irvine says. Pesticides, plasti-cisers, industrial chemicals, the Pill and soya-based foods, which contain plant oestrogens, are all possibilities.

Lowry: jobs boost for his home city

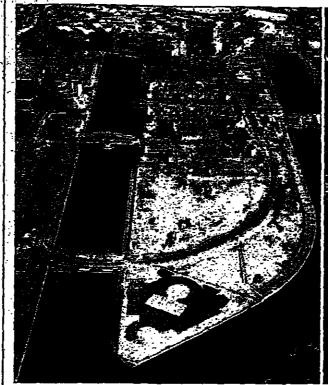
Other factors, such as car driving or smoking, may also play a role. In a third BMJ paper, Professor Marilyn Vine of the University of North Carolina points out that sperm counts of smokers are 16-25 per cent lower than those of non-smokers. The decline in sperm counts over the past 50 years is consistent with trends in smoking, she argues.

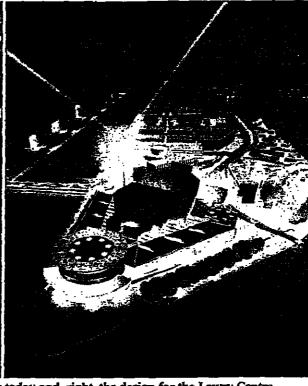
Several studies have been launched to try to confirm that the effect is real, and to find the cause. The French discovery about car driving came from one such study, drawing data from Britain, France. Italy, Spain and Denmark.

The data came from more than 4,000 couples in which the wife had become pregnant. Achieving pregnancy had tak-en longer when the husband spent long hours in the car, researchers provided the likeliest explanation. -"Men whose scrotal tem-

perature is in the low normal range, say about 33C to 34C. don't have a problem. Dr Mieusset explained. They can experience a rise of a degree or so without stopping sperm production. But those whose temperatures are already high, up to 36C, will stop

DR THOMAS





The waterfront site of the development as it looks today and, right, the design for the Lowry Centre

Lowry's towering talent wins £64m for lottery landmark

By Alexandra Frean

LOTTERY grant of yesterday to celebrate L.S. Lowry with an giant arts centre in his home city of Salford, as a landmark for the millennium.

cided with the twentieth anniversary of the artist's death. Bill Hinds, leader of the city council, said that the news was the "greatest in Salford's living memory". The Lowry

Centre on the Salford Ouavs waterfront will contain a central art gallery, a children's gallery, a virtual reality centre, a 1,650-seat theatre and a 400-scat auditorium. It will be part of a larger hotel, restaurant and shopping complex and will cost a total of £96.4 million. Mr Hinds

Salford Art Gallery has been unable to display more than half its collection of 300 Lowrys due to financial con-

forecasts it will create 6,500

straints and a lack of space. The award is the first joint Council, the Millennium Commission and the Heri-

tage Lottery Fund.

The commission also announced £12.3 million for Mile End Park, East London, £5.6 million for an environment project in Peterborough, £243,600 for St Martha's church in Broxtowe, Nottinghamshire, and £150,000 for Grayswood village hall, Surrey.

Last night the BBC were awarded

New York artwork offends Cornwall

By Dalya Alberge ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A VIDEO of a nude woman urinating into a fountain, on show at the publicly funded Newlyn Art Gallery in Penzance, has prompted an outery from the local community.

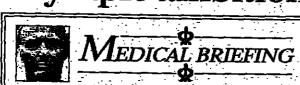
The video, part of an exhibi-tion by seven New York artists, has been branded pornographic. Local anger has been fuelled by news that the exhibition received £7.500 from the Arts Council.

Robert Dorrien-Smith, owner of Tresco Island, Isles of Scilly, and a local patron of the arts, is so disgusted he has withdrawn sponsorship he had set aside for a forthcoming exhibition. Taxpayers' money is being poured into flying seven people from New York for a gallery that was set up under a charitable trust to promote the work of west Cornwall artists," he said. "In recent times, the rather loony art establishment has got its grip on it. I doubt whether they are artists."

Lilla Locurto and William Outcault, who made the video. see it as a satire on Mannikin Pis, the sculpture of a little boy

in Brussels. Emily Ash, director of the gallery, said: "In Brussels. they celebrate by dressing up that statue once a year. In the nearby square is a similar girl peeing, which is always ignored. This is a piece about gender. It's an important piece of work. It was well acclaimed in the States."

Castration could scupper sailor's Olympic ambition



TESTOSTERONE, the hormone which is produced in the male from the testes, has a profound influence on the development and maintenance of both the physical and mental characteristics of the male. It increases muscle bulk, reduces fat and enhances the competitive spirit as well as maintaining a man's libido. Not surprisingly, testosterone supplements are among the many substances which are banned in

The han is endangering the ambition of Kevin Hall, one younger Laser dinghy helmsman, who was hoping to represent the United States in the summer Olympics this year in Atlanta.

Five years ago, while an undergraduate. Mr Hall developed cancer in one of his testicals and, 18 months later, it was found in the other becomes bilateral in 3 per cent of cases. After four years and three major operations, and presumably chemotherapy, he is in excellent trim but, as he has now been castrated. needs to take testosterone injections to preserve his bones, his strength and his

sex life. Mr Hall has never made any secret of his surgical condition with the sailing authorities and has asked both the United States and the International Olympic Com-

mittees to allow him to take as much testosterone as would be needed to give him blood levels of the hormone corresponding to the lowest levels found in men of his age

Despite enthusiastic sup-port from such varied institutions as the University of California Medical School, the American Civil Liberties Union, it seems that Mr Hall's hopes of being in the sailing team will be frustrated by the rules.

Cancer of the testes is the most common cancer to affect men under the age of 40 and its incidence is rising. Fortunately, treatment is one of the success stories of post-war medicine. Professor Tim Oliver of St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Hospital said that the latest figures from his unit had showed a 97 per cent three-year survival rate for several years, more than 90 per-cent of those attending the best units have been able to expect a perma-

Professor Oliver, however, has treated several patients, with advanced disease, with chemotherapy alone. Not only have they survived but they have preserved their testes and their child-siring capability. His results are due for publication soon.

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sperm production altogether. The same effect explained why bakers tended to have lower STUTTAFORD fertility, he said. Trust Celiphones Direct to make a world of difference to digital phone

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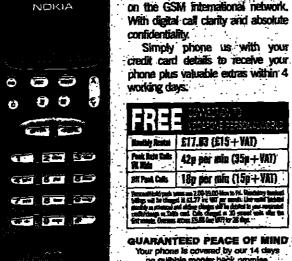
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integrity stay undiminished.

pacify peers on divorce reforms

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Lord Chancellor failed to calm peers' fears over divorce law reform yesterday, despite passing an amendment to his Family Law Bill stating that should be marriage

A senior Labour peer. Lord Stoddard of Swindon, made it clear that Lord Mackay of Clashfern will have to do more if he wants to prevent a series of rebellions. Lord Stoddard warned peers that they should wait and see whether Lord Mackay "really meant" to support the institution of marriage. He said: "We have some extremely good amendments which would improve this Bill. I hope that as we go along he will not forget his

Baroness Young was also adamant that she will not back down in her fight to slow the rate of divorce, which she believes places an unacceptable strain on children. The former Tory leader of the Lords is furious that Lord Mackay still wants to intro-duce no-fault divorce after one

Yesterday, as the Bili began its report stage, she demonstrated that she is still willing to inflict a humiliating defeat on the Government with a series of amendments, backed

by all sides of the House, including the bishops.

The most likely amendment to defeat the Government is one that would allow childless couples to divorce after a year but require those with child-ren to wait for 18 months. It has been signed by a formida-ble trio: the Duke of Norfolk. England's most eminent Roman Catholic peer, the Bishop of Chester and Lord

Stoddard. Yesterday Lady Young said: This is a Bill to manage the decline of marriage in a civilised way. I'm interested in buttressing marriage. We now know that the worst thing for children is divorce, not quarrelling parents."

Lord Mackay put up a staunch defence of his Bill. "A year is about the right period." he said. "It gives a chance for people to think very seriously. A year is quite a long period and particularly it's a long period in the childhood of a child. It is a period necessarily of uncertainty and I think we must be very careful about

lengthening i The Lord Chancellor has tried to meet Lady Young's concerns by tabling a new amendment giving spouses being divorced against their will the right to ask for the

petition to be blocked on the ground that it would cause them or their children hardship. He told the Lords: "The hardship bar should be extended to include consider-

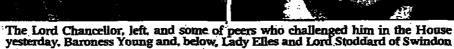
ation by the court of hardship to children. That doesn't mean the children would have to give evidence." He also emphasised that the Bill would help to save marriages that could be saved.

Several peers called for an amendment stating that the interests of the child were paramount, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former law lord who wants a ban on divorce for parents of children under said he did not believe that a marriage could be loveless if a child was involved. It was an anomoly not to mention child-

He was backed by Baroness Elles, a Tory peer who has added her own amendments to protect children. Lord Northbourne, a cross-bencher, said: "I think in the end the interests of children must be paramount. Parents must take responsibility if children are to grow up happy and useful."

But Earl Russell, a Liberal Democrat, said that the amendment would be ludicrous and impossible to carry out because children always







wanted their parents to stay together and be happy, and that was not always possible. saying we should always have a wise and benevolent Gov-

ernment," he said. Lord Mackay said he wanted to do everything to protect children but the amendment was flawed. The law could not stop parents divorcing, even if their children were violently

opposed to it.

☐ Lord Mackay made another concession vesterday. announcing that the Govern-ment would consider splitting pensions on divorce. It will publish a Green Paper, a decision made in response to calls from the Labour peer Baroness Hollis of Heigham, backed by several Tory peers.

welcome a t Buchanan? fusioner would Pat Buando in Britain? winner Would Britain Pat Buchanan?

ow would Pat Bu-chanan do in Britain? The winner of the Republican primary in New Hampshire may be a huckster - long on easy sounding panaceas and short on coherent policies - and as closely tied to Washington as any other candidate, but he has struck a chord with many American voters. Buchanan's 27 per cent vote on Tuesday in a multi-candidate race, albeit less than he won in a straight fight with George Bush four years ago, follows earlier successes and demonstrates the appeal of his anti-immigrant. anti-imports, anti-big business

and anti-abortion themes. His mixture of economic nationalism and religious moralism appeals to broadly the same groups of the ag-grieved and the downwardly mobile that gave Ross Perot a strong third place in the state in 1992. According to a Voter News Service exit poll. Mr Buchanan received well over half his votes from people with incomes below \$50,000 (£32,000) a year. His support was also heavily drawn from those without college degrees, and he did much better than his rivals among men and those aged under 44. Even in such a widely spread field. Mr Buchanan won over half the voters who described themselves as very conservative, members of the religious Right, and opposed to abortion. It is hard to draw exact parallels with Britain, in part because "social" themes, such as abortion, are not part of the party debate here. Even the arguments over divorce are mainly within the Tory party than between it and Labour, and Tony Blair has emphasised the need to strengthen the family. But the economic worries of Buchanan supporters are matched here. Socioconsult, a research consultancy arm of MORL has undertaken a lifestyle analysis of the electorate that identifies two groups, each about 11 per cent of the total.

ONPOLITICS

class men who like pubs. competitive games and reading The Sun and the Daily Mirror. That sounds more like Buchanan material, though many do not vote. No British politician has

tapped into these discontents. The conventions of Westminster work against an anniestabishment populist. Enoch Powell was perhaps the last to disaffected without firm party. ties when he raised immigration, and to a lesser extent, Europe between 1968 and 1974. But his personality and instincts were the opposite of a Buchanan. More recently, John Redwood may have caused a stir at Westminster over his leadership challenge, but, again, he is temperamentally not a populist. Paddy Ashdown has campaigned on anti-Westminster themes, but in restrained terms. The Scottish Nationalists have played similar tunes as part of their attacks on London and, at times, they have challenged Labour in its working-class 🏝 strongholds around Glasgow.

ir James Goldsmith has exploited some of the same nationalist themes as Mr Buchanan. His Referendum Party has a similar antiestablishment appeal to those who believe they have been ignored by the mainstream parties on the fundamental question of Britain's relations with Europe. But that touches on constitutional rather than economic fears, and Sir James has not really_developed his protectionist case in Britain as ne has in France. And he is hardly a credible crusader on behalf of the ordinary worker against multinationals.

At present, Labour is torn between attacking the salaries of corporate "fat cats" and trying to appear as respectable as possible to big business. In general, the latter predominates. There may be untapped potential for a populist antiestablishment campaigner in Britain, but he or she would probably have to come from

within the existing parties. PETER RIDDELL

Mawhinney bolsters Tories' spin team

One, described as "slow but

sure", consists more of older

and middle class women who

value religion and a return to

traditional values. They might

not respond to crude populism. The other, dubbed "risk

and violence seeking", consists

By NICHOLAS WOOD CHIEF POLITICAL

FIVE more Tory spin-doctors will be appointed today, doubling the strength of the party's media team in the run-

up to the general election. The announcement by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, is another milestone in the party's preparations for the election, widely expected in the spring of next

year. The Tory high command

Labour's slick and powerful propaganda machine.
Dr Mawhinney will tell businessmen in Derby that the five new recruits will be based at the party's regional offices and will pump out the Tory message to local newspa-pers and broadcasters. In a break with the past designed to avoid the risk of crossed wires, the newcomers will be under the direct control of

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tral Office in London. The latest appointments will mean that in the space of eight months Dr Mawhinney will have almost overhauled his media operation. Four of the newcomers are journalists.

Charles Lewington, the Tories'

communications chief, at Cen-

The 10-strong Tory team, however, still lags behind the opposition. Labour has 22 press officers - three based in Tony Blair's office, ten in the regional offices and eight in the £2 million high-tech media centre at Millbank, near the Commons. Dr Mawhinney will say today that he plans further media appointments later in the year.

Ministers criticised over empty housing

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MPs pressed ministers yesterday for action to make up to

The proportion of empty

IN PARLIAMENT

STUDENTS would be re-

Writing in The Times today, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, says that all university courses could include vocational training to improve students' employability. "We should consider intro-

ducing a vocational element for all third-level students, perhaps an extra module related to the development of innovation, enterprise and the world of work."

cost of their higher education under Labour.

David Blunkett page 33





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CORRESPONDENT able to the homeless.

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT 70,000 empty houses avail-

A cross-party Commons committee said that the Government was falling to encourage owners to let vacant housing to those who needed it. In some areas, one in eight. houses is lying empty.

housing in the private sector is at least twice that of the local authority sector, which has less than 2 per cent of its stock unused. Housing experts have suggested offering higher mortgage interest tax relief to people willing to let vacant property.

The Government aims to

provide up to 60,000 new affordable homes for those who cannot afford to buy or rent on the open market, but many experts suggest that a further 30,000 homes are needed. In a report, MPs on the Environment Select Committee also criticised ministers for allowing one in ten government-owned houses, in-cluding many owned by the Ministry of Defence to remain empty.

YESTERDAY in the Commons: que to Northern Imitand ministers en Prime Minister: statement our th

Student work scheme

quired to do work experience as part of their higher education under plans being pre-pared by Labour (David Charter writes).

He also strongly suggests that students would have to contribute more towards the

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Buchan Ingrained discrimination frustrates police reform

HOME CORRESPONDENT

BULLYING and racist and sexist jokes remain part of police life across England and Wales, according to a report published yesterday.

Resistance to policies pro moting equal opportunities for women and members of the ethnic minorities has grown in a service with a strongly hierarchical and predominantly white male ethos.

The report, by Her Majes-ty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, says that people in the police service are divided about the benefits of an equal opportunities policy. It warns senior officers that token gestures could be masking continuing subtle discrimination.

Welfare officers told the authors, who looked at 13 forces, including Greater Manchester, Surrey and the West Midlands, of increasing reports of "oppressive bullying". The report found evi-

insurance company by sexual harassment. Their experience shows how difficult it is for women to succeed in traditionally male jobs, according to researchers who interviewed 45 managers. Their report, published in the British Sociological Association's journal Work, Employment and Society, argues that the deep-seated nature of sexual harassment in sales trapped women managers in a vicious circle. If they complained, they were "unsuitable" for men's jobs.

banter, perhaps more covert and subtle than before, but no less destructive. There were many stories of harassment or discrimination against civilian staff."

Associations representing staff accused managers of failing to challenge poor behav-iour. They claimed that while wholesale discrimination had ceased, cases of harassment were often not reported for fear of the consequences.

The report - Developing Diversity in the Police Service, published by the Home Office said that the idea of a diverse workforce was proving slow to take root. Enequal opportunity policies.

The report says that a radical change in approach is needed. The view has to be eradicated that equal opportuni-ties is a bolt-on soft option, necessary to satisfy the law but related more to politically correct ideas about race and gender than to 'real police

The report, by Peter Hermitage, assistant inspector of constabulary, says that all sectors of the community would be reassured by an antisexist, anti-racist and anti-homophobic force.

Female officers and those from ethnic minorities are the level of constable and under-represented in the higher ranks. The percentage of women and members of the ethnic minorities in ranks up to that of chief inspector has slightly increased, but their representation in the top ranks is almost unchanged since 1990.

Women constituted 13.7 per cent of all officers in forces excluding the Metropolitan Police in 1994: only 3 per cent at the ranks of assistant chief constable and above; 2.6 per cent at superintendent level; 2.9 per cent at chief inspector; 3.8 per cent at inspector, and 6.8 per cent at sergeant. Of constables, women constituted 16.4 per cent.

Members of ethnic minorities constituted 1.4 per cent of all police officers in 1994: I.6 per cent of constables, 0.6 per cent of sergeants; 0.4 per cent of inspectors; and 0.1 per cent of chief inspectors. There were no members of ethnic minorities at the level of assistant chief constable and above.



Thought for paws: Luke the Labrador with Warrant Officer Jeffrey Pedrick

Treading softly, the dog of war

A HUMBLE foot soldier in the war on terrorism demonstrated the latest equipment yesterday. Luke the sniffer dog is trying out protective boots to protect paws for dogs who go where humans fear to

Army dogs are at risk from shards of glass and debris when they go into bombed areas to check for further explosives. The Veterinary Corp is now testing strong. lightweight material to reduce the risks.

"Sniffer dogs are often required to work in hazardsuffer damage to their pads and feet," Major Neil Smith said. The bombing at South Quay added urgency to the problem, he added. "There was a field of horrible glass." Luke, a three-year-old black Labrador, tried the woven-nylon boots at Aldershot, Hampshire. The handier, Warrant Officer Jeffrey Pedrick, said: "We started slowly, putting them on at meal times because that is a time he enjoys. He is very happy with them."

Cold weather fails to harm fish supplies

FISH supplies and quality 1.8 kg. coffee and cream have held up well despite the gateau (10 portions) £1.99. weather. Whiting is in top

condition, and at £1 to £1.60 a

lb is good value A drop in the price of plaice. to £2 a lb for whole fish or £3.20 for fillets, reflects a drop in quality, and crab is in short supply, with the price up to £3 a lb cooked. Cornish mackerel are around £1 a lb, but sprats at 90p a lb are suggested as the

best buy. The season for British rhubarb has just begun, and prices range from 69p to £1.29 a lb, while pink grapeiruit are about 26p each.

Promotions include: steaks £3.94 a kg, fresh sage and onion stuffed chicken £1.74 a kg, fresh beef stewing steak E3.49 a kg, fresh pork chops E3.49 a kg, cantaloupe potatoes 5 kg for £1.69.

Budgens: fresh chicken £2,84 for 1.5 kg, unsmaked rindless back bacon rashers £1.99 for 400 g, 6in cheese and onion quiche 99p. French apples oick 'n' mix 39p a lb.

Co-op: four steak, kidney & onion pies 99p, whole fresh chicken £4.89 for 2.2 kg, cauliflower and broccoli mix £1.49 for 907 g, plain/milk choco-late digestive wheatmeal 49p

for 300 g. Harrods: Camembert with calvados £4.95, breast of lamb 50p a lb. smoked Scottish venison £2.20 for 100g, fresh rainbow trout £3.50 a kg. freshly cooked lobster, two for

locland: unsmoked gammon joint £4.22 a kg, Chinese style chicken breasts £1.99 for two. cod in batter £1.99 for four, crinkle fry chips £1.49 for

gateau (10 portions) £1.99, mini Cornish pasties 99p for 4. Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb leg knuckle £4.99 a kg. life vegetable pizza £1.99 for 245g, chicken casserole with hero dumplings £2.29 for 454g, frozen skinless cod fillets £3.99, loose white seedless

grapes 99p a lb. Morrison: prawn masala balti and nan bread £1.99, cod fillet £4.82 a kg, jumbo haddock £5.93 a kg, shark steak £6.06 a kg. neptune mackerel fillets 65p for 200g, mussels

Safeway: topside/silverside/top rump £4.39 a kg, pork ribs Chinese style £2.09 for 720g, white finger rolls 99p for 20, Cumberland pie £1.99 for 550g, cucumbers 59p each.

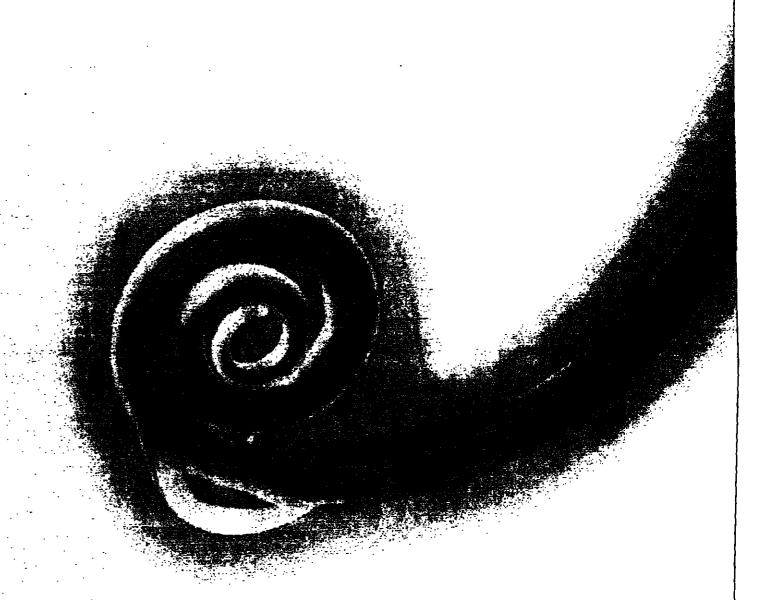
fresh lamb shoulder £2.99 a kg. four fresh chicken fillets £4.29 for 510g, red potatoes £1.30 for 2.5kg. Pizzeria margherita pizza (cheese and tomato) 99p for 330g.

Somerfield: fresh smoked cod fillet £1.57 a lb, chicken korma El.24 for 300g, English mature white cheddar £1.74 a lb. premium white bread 38p for 800g, black South African grapes 89p per lb.

Tesco: fresh large eggs £1:35 for 12, frozen farmhouse mixed vegetables 85p for 759g, Golden Delicious apples 39p a lb, two dairy cream doughnuts 79p, frozen raspberry

torte 99p. Waitrose: fresh dressed Cromer crab (large) 12.49, extra fine asparagus £1.69 per pack, black figs 29p each, Greek honey £1.99 for 454g.

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Albania abandons its bunker and rejoins history

Five years after

the fall of

Communism.

Tirana has finally

shaken off its

paranoia, writes Michael Binyon

MORE than 700,000 reinforced concrete bunkers, sprouting from the ground like giant mushrooms, cover Albania: indestructible monu-

ments to 45 years of paranoid

Communist dictatorship.

Every field, hill, outcrop, road and mountain slope is dotted with clusters of these giant warts. Built to foil an imagined Nato invasion, each can accommodate two soldiers. Enough were built so that Enver Hoxha, the late and unloved tyrant, could order half the population into the ground. The bunkers were not the only deterrent to the Western forces the Albanians were told would invade in the vineyard in this fertile land has hundreds of concrete posts holding up vines; on top of each is a metal spike pointing skywards to give parachutists

a piercing reception. The bunkers, now used mainly as toilets or storehouses, are almost all that is left of Hoxha's paranoia. In five years since the fall of Communism. Albania is utterly changed: smiling to outsid-



A young Albanian boy plays in a field of rapeseed outside Tirana. The crop is growing among some of the 700,000 reinforced concrete bunkers that litter the country

ers, bustling, eager to join the Atlantic alliance, its former on private enterprise left most nemesis. In November the tel opened. The Tirana Stock Exchange starts trading next month, thanks to Britain's Know How Fund. Mosques are springing up on the ruins of those dynamited when religion was abolished, and most of Albania has been on the streets celebrating the end of

But Albania remains horseand-cart poor. Its gross domestic product is the same as that of The Gambia. Decrees

people baffled: how do you collectivised sheep or decide which family can claim which field? But the instinct returned quickly. Cafés are opening. shops are putting up neon signs and trade is growing, although with Britain it still amounts to a paltry £5 million

But Albanians have less orthodox ways of making money: drug-running along the East-West route from Turkey to Italy is profitable - so

year-old Mercedes costs only \$7.000 (£4,600). Most are either stolen from rich north European streets or lent to drug couriers and then left as payoffs. Blood feuds and brigands

still lurk in the mountains. Three years ago ripples of alarm spread among diplomats when bandits hauled an intrepid Bulgarian military attaché out of his car and raped him. "Things are better now," an official said.

Albanians have flocked abroad to find work in Italy or Greece, or trying their luck as

beggars. Their remittances, from an estimated 20 per cent of the workforce, are a vital

Liberated from the dreari-

ness of their xenophobic past. history has returned. Statues of the wild hero Skanderbeg, a 15th-century warrior who repulsed 13 Turkish invasions, now bestrides the plinths where Enver Hoxha once stood. The double-headed eagle flies on the flag over the country called, in Albanian. the "Land of Eagles". Islam, the conveniently moderate

frown on drink, has a profitable payoff: Arabs and even Iranians are pouring money into this newest member of the Organisation of the Islamic

Conference. Growth rates in the past few years have been running at 8 per cent, and President Berisha, a former heart surgeon, is the darling of Western politicians. He paid effusive tribute to John Major during Malcolm Rifkind's four-hour visit and then declared: "I want to thank all British taxpayers for their aid to my

usual even Foreign Office officials were seen to grin. There is a long way to go The few tourists can expect a bumpy time even from the moment of landing. Tirana airport is still cobbled, and the last Lufthansa plane to touch down burst a tyre. Roads are

potholed, railways, which have just been rejoined to the outside world, cheap but hardcheerful. Hospitals are primitive and Western charities essential. But goodwill is there in abundance...

£1.5m bail set for Basque leader

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

WITH ten days to go before a general election in Spain, tinued to dominate debate vesterday with the arrest of a veteran Basque separatist leader and the issue of a warrant for another.

Jon Idigoras, 59, spokes-mari for the political wing of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, lodged an appeal after a court in Madrid set his bail at £1.5 million. He had been charged with collaborating with terrorists. He was arrested at his Bilbao home after he refused to accept a summons.

A judge in Navarre pro ince adjoining the Spanish Basque region issued a warrant for the arrest of Floren Aoiz, another member of the 26-strong committee that runs Herri Batasuna (Popular Uni-ty), for inciting terrorism in Navarre, long claimed by the separatists as part of

Basque country. José Maria Aznar, leader of the conservative Popular Party, who is expected to oust Felipe González and his Socialist Government, accused the ruling party of failing to act earlier against Basque leaders who advocated violence. "I cannot believe that during 13 years in power they could not find a reason to



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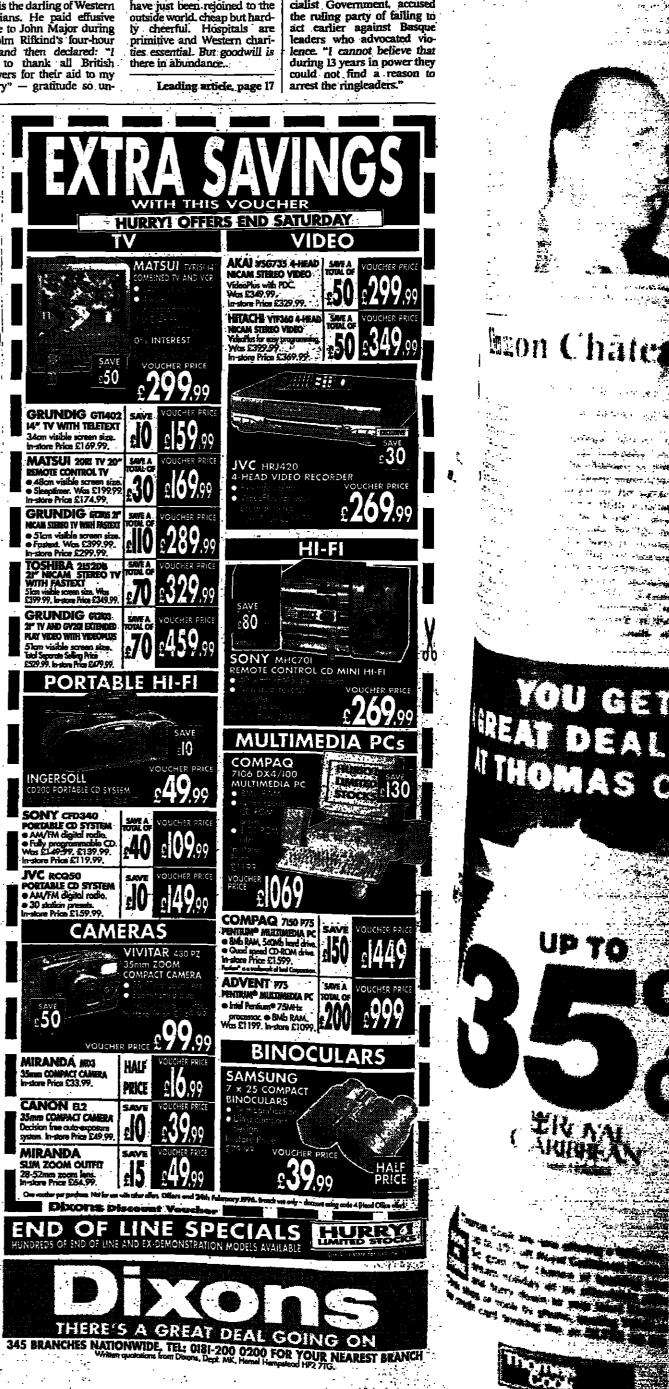


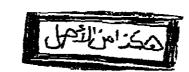
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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON





Chirac pledges to scrap land-based nuclear missiles

From Ben Macintyre in paris and Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT Chirac announced last night that France would stop producing fissile nuclear material, scrap its land-based nuclear missiles and dismantle the Hades

short-range mobile missile. In a live television interview, outlining a shakeup of the armed forces and defence industries, he sought to recapture the moral high ground after worldwide outrage over French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, which ended

The President said he had decided to close down France's only factory manufacturing plutonium and weapons-grade enriched uranium at Pierrelatte, south of Lyon. He said the country had plentiful stocks for its weapons needs. France will no longer produce fissile material," he said... "Naturally, it has what it needs to make its arms."

The President said 18 ageing land-based nuclear missiles the southern Plateau d'Albion would be scrapped and France would henceforth rely on four missile-firing submarines, and aircraft as the two arms for its nuclear

in a gesture to reassure Germany, M Chirac said he had decided after talks with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, dismantle the Hades nuclear missile, mothballed in 1991, but which worried Bonn because it could only hit German soil if fired.

Under the sweeping plans to overhaul the French defence establishment, troop numbers will be drastically reduced, compulsory military service phased out and the arma-

nents industries streamlined. The French Government is under increasing pressure to reduce spending in the run-up to European economic and monetary union, and with the

end of the Cold War most analysts say reform of the cumbersome French military machine is long overdue. But the far-reaching plans to restructure this most hallowed of French institutions and create an all-professional army by the year 2002 may carry heavy political costs.

The plan to cut troops, end conscription and rationalise the military-industrial complex mark the most radical shake-up in French defence since General Charles de Gaulle ordered the return of French soldiers from Algeria in 1962 after the Algerian war of independence.

France must achieve a profound reform of its military and defence machine," M Chirac warned his ministers earlier this week.

The President held a meeting with military heads and ministers at a special Defence Council yesterday, before presenting his reforms on national television. On Wednesday the Government unveiled plans to merge the two largest aircraft makers, Aérospatiale and Dassault Aviation within two years, and announced the privatisation of Thomson SA. one of Europe's leading de-



Chirac seeks profound

tence electronics companies. The changes are intended to reduce competition within the defence industry while the Dassault-Aerospatiale merger will forge a giant aviation company with annual sales of £B billion. as a prelude to building joint European ventures that can compete with US defence contractors.

The move to end conscrip-tion by 2001 and create a professional military corps along British lines is the most politically volatile of the measures. Currently, ten months of military service is compul-sory for all French males.

M Chirac has rejected the idea of holding a referendum on ending conscription, but a national debate will discuss whether to transform the system into a compulsory form of civilian national service, or instead adopt an entirely vol-

untary system.

Up to half the country's ground troops, now numbering 240,000, are likely to be axed over the next five years under the Chirac plan. The cuts could save an estimated Fro billion (1780 million) a year, according to a parlia-mentary report published yes-terday, but much of the money would be reinvested in regions most affected by job losses.

The 8,500-strong Foreign Legion is the country's only sizeable all-volunteer force, and most defence analysts agree the existing heavily con-script army is ill-adapted to the rapid foreign military interventions required in the post-Cold War era.

The tradition of military conscription stretching back to the French Revolution is widely revered as a way of mstilling literacy and patriousm in raw recruits. Some critics also say the overall quality of French troops will deteriorate if the draft is abolished.



A Royal Air Force Chinook hovers on patrol above Mount Igman as part of Nato's Implementation Force

Bosnian leader rushed to hospital

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE BOSNIAN President, Alija Izetbegovic, who symbolised the struggle for a multi-ethnic Bosnia through 43 months of war, was taken to Sarajevo's Kosevo hospital yesterday morning with heart

Presidential guards sealed the doors to the medical clinic, barring access to journalists, but a spokesman said the ailing President was in a stable condition.

As members of Bosnia's collective presidency convened an emergency session to designate a temporary successor, the Bosnian Serb leadership, which has breached numerous obligations established by the Dayton peace plan, issued a press release saying it would re-establish relations with the Nato peace force and the Bosnian Government

Serbs living in the five Serbheld suburbs that are due to

revert to government control next month stepped up their exodus, jamming access roads out of the suburbs with tractors, cars and lorries packed with their possessions. Several buildings burnt in their wake, including a kindergarten.

The Serb military and civilian leadership severed all ties with the Nato force and the

Bosnian Government nearly two weeks ago when two of its senior officers were arrested by the Bosnian Government and handed to the UN War Crimes Tribunal. They agreed to renew ties with Nato after last weekend's Rome summit. Since the 60,000-strong

Nato-force arrived in Bosnia to

Dayton deal 'fragile' tiative by the recently formed

THE Dayton peace agreement in Bosnia could disintegrate if its civilian aspects are not implemented, Senator George Mitchell said yesterday (Leyla Linton writes).

The events of the past few weeks have shown us that the stand-off agreed at Dayton is fragile and needs all the support that we can give it." announced a £1 million iniimplement the Dayton peace

International Crisis Group, which he chairs to help strengthen peace in Bosnia. The group will focus on the non-military aspects of the agreement. These include plans for the return of refugees, preparations for elections throughout Bosnia by

plan, the Bosnian Serbs have violated a number of key

Their breaches have included sniping at civilian buses and Nato troops, abducting 16 Muslim civilians, launching a rocket at a Sarajevo tram. killing one woman, regularly impeding freedom of movement across Serb-controlled territory, shielding indicted war criminals and possessing heavy weapons within the 12_5-mile exclusion zone.

In spite of these violations. Nato officials assessed the Bosnian Serbs to be in "general compliance" with the terms of the peace accord.

Paris: France became the first European Union country to restore diplomatic ties with federal Yugoslavia to the level ambassador since war erupted in Bosnia in 1992, signalling an end to Belgrade's isolation. (Reuter)

EUROPEAN SUMMARY

IMF gives Yeltsin poll boost

Moscow: The International Monetary Fund yesterday gave President Yeltsin a valuable pre-election boost by agreeing to lend Moscow \$10 billion (£6.5 billion) to bolster Russian economic reforms (Richard Beeston writes).

Jean-Michel Camdessus IMF managing director, said he was satisfied that Russia would comply with the strict conditions attached to the loan and predicted that the package would make reforms in Russia 'truly irreversible". Robert Skidelsky, page 16

Jackal accused of café attack

Paris: Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, 45, the Venezuelan-born terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal, who is in jail here for bombings and hijackings, has been charged over a 1974 grenade attack at a Paris café which killed two people and wounded 34.

In 1992, France sentenced Carlos in absentia to life in prison for killing two French ounter-intelligence agents in 1975. Carlos was seized in Sudan in 1994. (AP)

Bildt seeks divorce

Stockholm: Carl Bildt, 46, the former Swedish Prime Minister and mediator in the former Yugoslavia, has filed for divorce from his wife, Mia, 42, a Stockholm court said. The couple separated before his mission in Bosnia. (Reuter)

Snow rescue

Madrid: Passengers stuck for 36 hours on two snowbound trains in northern Spain, surviving on cheese from a nearby farm, were rescued yesterday by Civil Guard tanks (Edward Owen writes).

£3m tag on Château Jackson

BYBEN MACINTYRE

THE town of Pont Chretien in central France is revelling the rumour that the pop. star Michael Jackson may be

de Chabenet near by. 🗀 The great 15th-century cas-tle, with seven towers and 82 But tike everything associatprice of Fr25 million (£3.25

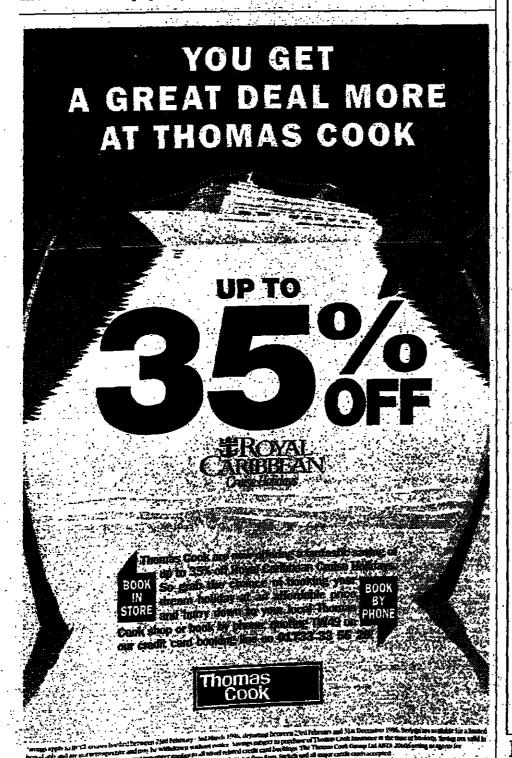
Last week the French newsaper, La Nouvelle Répubique du Centre Ouest, reported that Mr Jackson was thinking of buying the building and that an agency has

head of the company that restaurants. has denied being approached rooms, is on sale at an asking ed with the world's most peculiar pop star, this has not prevented a flood of rumour to the effect that Mr Jackson

may soon be a neighbour. last week that Mr Jackson was "seriously interested" in buying the vast castle in the

etor of the fortress in his Tours. Residents say they name. have seen "American busi-But Philippe Marec the nessmen" eating in local

> ment to support the theory that Mr Jackson may move in is the ease with which be could travel, via the airport at Chateauroux, to the Euro Disney theme park outside "When one takes into account the taste of Bambi [as Mr Jackson is known in France] for the World of Mickey, this last factor could be decisive." La Nouvelle

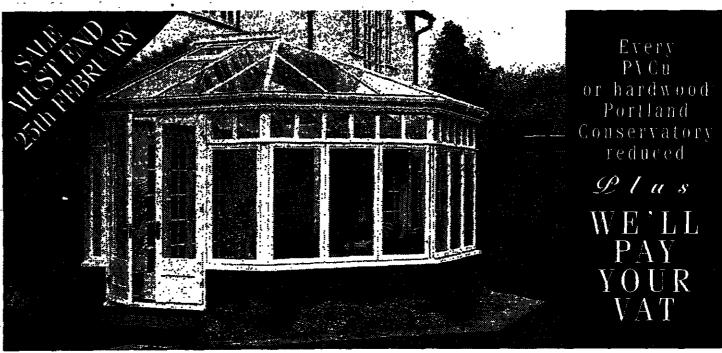


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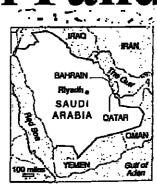
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Frail Fahd resumes rule as Gulf faces turmoil

IN MANAMA, BAHRAIN

THE ageing King Fahd confounded the Cassandras yesterday and resumed his duties as monarch of Saudi Arabia. just three months after he handed the reins of power to his half-brother.

Crown Prince Abdullah took over power in the world's largest oil producer after King Fahd suffered a minor stroke in November. The announcement yesterday that the 74year-old monarch was back at the helm comes as many of the



member Gulf Co-operation Council are in a state of political turmoil that is causing growing anxiety in the

well as Saudi Arabia are facing increasing internal pressure for political change. After this week's failed anti-

government coup in Qatar, the deposed Emir issued a statement claiming that, rather than being his handiwork, the coup attempt was part of a popular movement against his son, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who had toppled him last year while he was holidaying in Switzerland.

What is disconcerting is that the former Emir made his announcement from his sanctuary, a hotel in Abu Dhabi, which is part of the United Arab Emirates and supposed-ly an ally of Qatar inside the pro-Western Gulf council. The fact that a family

squabble of this magnitude should be conducted from the soil of a friendly state is adding to the unease in the Gulf," said an Arab official. "The question everyone is asking is whether the Saudis are covertly backing the unrest in Qatar to punish its new leader for his maverick

Last December the modernising, 46-year-old Emir staged from the council's annual

the way a Saudi was chosen as the organisation's new secretary-general. Sheikh Hamad has also upset the Saudis by showing support for democratic reforms.

Iran and other pro-Islamic foes of the autocratic king-doms are delighted at the lack of unity in the Gulf council. To add to its woes, Bahrain, which is also facing an internal revolt from impoverished Shia Muslims, denied claims by Qatar that it was sheltering some of the perpetrators of

Qatari ruling family have been heightened since Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the deposed ruler, still controls about \$3 billion (£1.94 billion) of the emirate's reserves and has refused to hand it back. The country is facing cashflow problems as well as

large investment needed to develop its huge gas reserves. Strict security has been imosed in Qatar after a threat by the deposed Emir to seize back his throne. Some Arab security experts believe Tuesday's round-up of 100 men

difficulty in financing the

pre-emptive strike by his son to try to prevent a full-scale

insurrection against him. The danger is that the power squabble in Qatar could spill over and affect the neighbour-. ing Gulf states, all of which have similar regimes in which family ties and loyalties loom large. The general unrest is also occurring as dwindling financial resources are putting the future of many of the Gulf

rulers at risk. in Saudi Arabia, television pictures of the overweight and diabetic King Fahd hobbling with a stout walking stick did either his or the country's immediate future. He is very trail, said a Gulf official watching the broadcast.

pepublica plaught puchanan

His return to power also raises questions about the succession, though most analysts are convinced that it will pass to Prince Abdullah. To dissidents in the Gulf.

and those in exile here and in the West who find the human rights abuses that are rife in the region distasteful, this week's events have reinforced a view that a period of profound change in the world's richest oil zone is close.

Palestinian State hopes raised by Israel-PLO talks

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister's most senior adviser has confirmed he held secret talks with Palestinian leaders. including discussion of an independent Palestinian State as a means of ending their conflict.

Yossi Beilin. Minister without Portfolio in the office of Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said he had met Abu Mazen and other Palestinian leaders in various places in Europe and Israel over the past 12 months. Mr Mazen is on record as saying there will be a new Palestinian State within the next two years.

Mr Beilin said his discussions with Mr Mazen had given him cause to be more hopeful about reaching a last-

ing peace agreement.

As a result, I got a picture that gave me a whole lot more optimism about the possibility of reaching agreement," Mr Beilin said in response to an article in yesterday's Haaretz. the Israeli daily. But he denied suggestions that any final agreement had been signed between the Israelis and Palestinians. "I did not have the authority to reach some sort of agreement and we did not

reach a real agreement." The talks included debate over a proposal to grant Palestinians full statehood but without an army. Mr Peres is reported to have rejected this particular proposal, preferring a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians. Other issues which came up

for discussion included allowing 140,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank to remain under Israeli sovereignty. Under proposals discussed by Mr Beilin and Mr Mazen, in return for such sovereignty. Israel would agree to hand over the Jordan Valley to the Palestinians by 2007.

One of the main obstacles in the Israeli-Palestinian negoti-ations is the future of Jerusalem, which both sides claim as a political and religious capital. The Muslim holy sites, the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosque, stand on the Temple Mount, the site of the Jewish temple in biblical times. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have discussed the possibility of such sites being designated special or extra-territorial areas, outside the complete jurisdiction of either side.

Mr Beilin said he had not presented Mr Peres with any final document, but he discussed with him possible ways forward in negotiations.

Uri Savir, director-general of the Israeli Department of Foreign Affairs, last night described Mr Beilin's meetings with Mr Mazen as strictly

Mr Peres is understood to have agreed with Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, to delay the start of formal negotiations on the final status of West Bank territories and Jerusalem at least until June. due to the calling of an Israeli general election for May 29.



Japan kept

silent on

HIV blood

grine Hodson writes).

supplies were imported.

to be 'free soon'

Sea quake kills

four in Peru

50 homes. (AP)

streets here. (AFP)

Squeezed out

drink, as a security risk after

they caused a furore on the



A mother and her children are allowed through the guarded gates of Potgietersrus school yesterday

Police usher blacks into white school

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN POTGIETERSRUS

AS A large black woman blacks running this country wearing a pink flowing gown swept through the huge iron gates of the former whitesonly primary school, minutes after registering her ten yearold son as a pupil, she could barely contain her joy. This is history," she cried.

A few yards along the pavement grim-faced white parents looked on in defeat. Standing near the spot where about 200 men and women three small black children. from entering the premises last month, some of the same parents offered only verbal

are arrogant," khaki-clad Entjies Yeates, 39, a burly toolmaker, protested.

The dispute over admission to the primary school, 150 miles north of Johannesburg, brought the first legal test of non-racialism enshrined in the constitution. On Wednesday, a Supreme Court judge, Tibbe Specistra, ordered that the school could not appeal against his decision.

Scores of heavily armed ponce backed by armoured vehicles and dogs, were deployed yesterday to guard 18 black children who were ac-

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China hits at US over child abuse

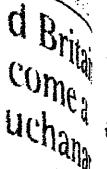
FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

PEKING yesterday accused Americans of being "totally indifferent" to the plight of children in their own country and painted a bleak picture of alleged abuse and exploitation in the United States. Recent charges by the New

York-based Human Rights Watch/Asia of abuses in Chinese orphanages were both fabricated and exaggerated. the official Xinhua news agency reported. It was in America. said the agency, that cruelty to children, both physical and psychological, took place dai-ly, it cited a 1994 report of

children who were allegedly fed radioactive food in a government-backed * experiment by the Massachusens Institute of Technology. Xinhua said that the number of child victims of violent crime in America had risen four times from 1985 to 1995. and that one in five schoolchilnearly 120 mentally retarded dren carried a weapon.





Republicans lead onslaught against channel image

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN'S free run Buchanan's "intolerance" and ended abruptly yesterday as Colin Powell and other leading Republicans, the American media, and even foreign governments lashed out at his protectionism, isolationism and alleged racism. Mr Buchanan did acquire

one prominent endorsement, but it was one he could have done without. Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian ultranationalist, congratulated him on his victory in New Hampshire's primary, called him a comrade and brother-inarms in the struggle for national liberation", and suggested they could co-operate in deporting Jews from their two countries.

Robert Dole's campaign workers meanwhile pressed Steve Forbes and Senator Richard Lugar to quit the presidential race so their supporters could join Mr Dole's battle to stop Mr Buchanan.

The Dole camp also launched a whispering campaign against Lamar Alexander, the Senate leader's main rival for the mainstream Republican vote, saying his shady financial dealings as Tennessee Governor would prevent him attacking President Clinton over Whitewater.

The virulent attacks on Mr Buchanan reflected the conservative commentator's emergence as a serious contender for the nomination. General Powell damned Mr ing" with extremism. Andre

said he would not vote for him if he won the nomination. Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Republican Mayor, said: We're going to do everything we can to stop Buchanan. Haley Barbour, the supposedly neutral party chairman. signalled hostility by saying he trusted Republican voters

to make the right choice. On the left, John Sweeney, America's trade union leader, said Mr Buchanan was no

6 Mr Buchanan is going to take a couple of days off ... and then invade

friend of the workers he claimed to represent. On the right, the American Conservative Union protested that his hostility to free trade, immigration and big business would damage the movement.

Poland 9

The Washington Post said Mr Buchanan was "as reckless and demagogic a figure as: has appeared on the national political stage in many years". The New York Times said he was "not flirting" but "dancOuellet, Canada's Foreign Minister, deplored Mr Buchanan's "old-fashioned protectionism". Mexicans expressed concern. The Israeli media called him a fascist.

America's late-night tele-vision chat-show hosts had a field day. Mr Buchanan was going to take a couple of days off after the New Hampshire primary, and then invade Poland", quipped David Letterman. The heat Mr Buchanan was generating came "mostly from burning books

and crosses", joked Jay Leno. Mr Buchanan, who has now been granted Secret Service protection, is attracting huge crowds and considerable funds. He said his critics risked "the unity of the Republican Party" and told them to "calm down, relax, take it easy and don't say anything you might regret later on".

One Republican headache is how to kill off Mr Buchanan without driving away his sub-stantial following among reli-gious conservatives and the blue-collar workers, who will be the key to victory in November's general election.

Though no fan of Mr Bu-chanan, Rush Limbaugh. America's leading conservarive talk-show host, issued a warning that his Republican critics were "not just insulting Buchanan" but also "a large percentage of people in their party who have always voted for them. The immediate



Pat Buchanan at a rally in front of the Mount Rushmore presidential monument

battle between Mr Dole and Mr Alexander may be settled within two weeks, and Dole aides are confident the cashrich Senate leader will prevail. Mr Alexander portrays Mr

Dole as washed up and himself as the only viable mainstream Republican candidate, but to clinch that argument and trigger a mass defection of

win a crucial primary quickly. He will not win Delaware tomorrow or Arizona next Tuesday, meaning South Carolina tomorrow week will be his make-or-break state.

Clinton basks in presidential role as rivals fall out

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House avoided any public show of private yesterday over Pat Buchanan's triumph in New Hampshire, which leaves a Republican Party at war and President Clinton well above the fray.

Senior aides believe the chasm among the President's opponents will deflect attention from the latest Whitewater revelations in which the White House has just handed over 100 pages of documents sought under subpoena since 1994.

This country doesn't need another pundit. I'm not going to get involved in their busi-ness," said Mr Clinton. Privately, the President's advisers hope Mr Buchanan's success will result in a riven Republican convention this August and allow Democrats to paint his views as further evidence of extremism among their rivals. "If you liked what you saw in Houston in 1992, you're going to love what you see in San Diego in 1996." Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said in reference to the convention speech four years ago in which Mr Bu-chanan declared a religious and cultural war in America.

For the White House, at least, the strategy for the next few months is simple. As the three leading Republican candidates do battle for their nomination in a bloody whirlwind of primaries and caucuses. Mr Clinton plans to "take the Rose Garden on the road".

He travels to California

today to tout his economic policies at the McDonnell Douglas aircraft plant and plans to welcome the advantages of foreign trade in opposition to the Buchanan view that Mr Clinton has sacrificed American jobs to overseas companies.

A programme of presiden-tial trips throughout the country, particularly to the critical Golden State, aims to present Mr Clinton as a man of substance above the negative tone of the Republican campaign. This stage is expected to culminate in state visits to Russia and Japan before Mr Clinton formally announces his candidacy.

'Americans don't like polinics these days," said Don Fowler, national chairman of the Democratic Party. "The longer he can be presidential and not political, the more they will like him. It is that

High among Republican priorities will be Whitewater, the failed land venture in Arkansas which continues to blight the Clinton presidency. In the latest embarrassment for the White House, a series of documents said to have been "mistakenly overlooked" by Clinton aides were turned over to the Senate Whitewater committee on the night of the New Hampshire primary.

"The White House continues its pattern of turning over evidence on weekends, late at night, and on important news days," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the

No holds barred as feminist defends wrestling

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BRAWN and brainpower combined in an unlikely alliance last night when Camille Paglia, the outspoken feminist attacked an Ivy League university for its "scandalous" discrimination against male wrestlers:

Ms Paglia, an expert in verbal halfnelsons, accused Princeton University of surrendering to political correctness. The university has withdrawn recognition for its wrestling team and instead given official approval to a

equality requirements. But Ms Paglia insisted it was "vandalism". She had ridden into Princeton "like a Joan of Arc figure" (her words) to pepper it with her distinctive high-velocity rhetoric Addressing a university debating society, she said the university's treatment of its wrestlers was "counter-productive and will create a backlash

against feminism". Since 1972 male sports at American universities have had to comply with sexual equality rules. Female athletes must be considered for admission on athletic prowess in the so-called "jock women's water polo team. Princeton... sound" of college enrolment proce-took the step in order to meet sexual dures, and sporting funds and medical

insurance must also be distributed fairly between the sexes. Wrestling has been an official sport

at Princeton since 1905 and the university has done well in intercollegiate matches, winning the Ivy League championship II times. The captain of the team in 1958, William Fortenbaugh, later an Oxford athletics blue, leads a campaign to reinstate the sport, describing it as the perfect activity for sporty intellectuals. "Wrestling is inexpensive and it is quick. You get fired in 30 minutes and can then return to your studies," he said. Critics of the decision have made withering remarks not only about

women's water polo (which Princeton describes as an "emerging" sport) but about some other female sports at the university. The women's ice hockey club reportedly faces a recruiting crisis because not enough tomboys can be found to hurl themselves into an activity that creates havoc with hairstyles and can create noses like Henry Cooper's.

An angry Ms Paglia, author of Sex. Art and American Culture, believes that the laws demanding sexual equality in sport can be compared to affirmative action - nobly intentioned but "it has become an iron-clad system



Paglia: an expert in

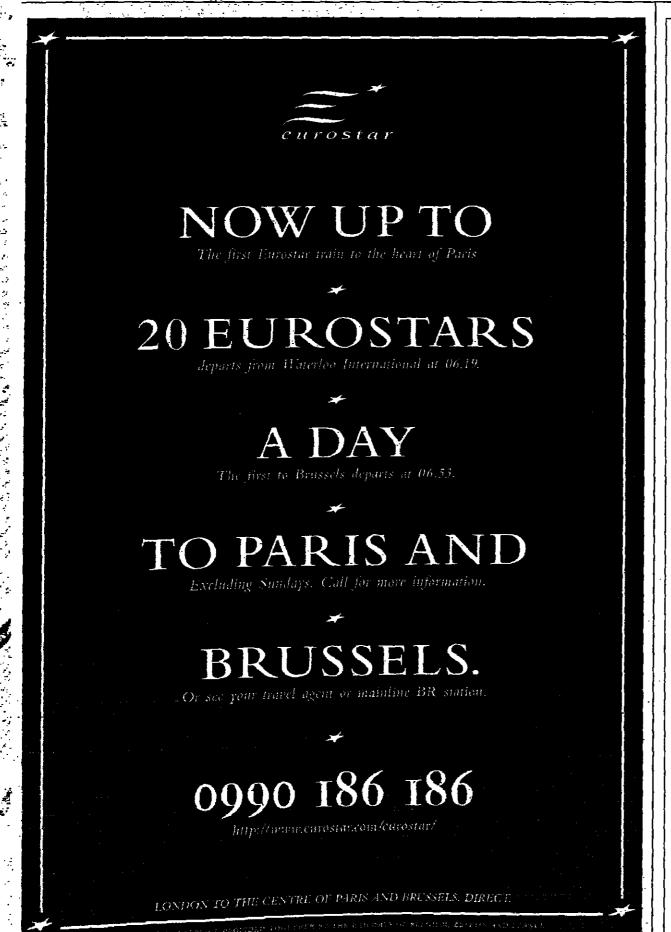
'Coma miracle' man talks after operation

New York: Gary Dockery, the "coma miracle" man who last week snapped out of a sevenyear silence, has survived an operation that threatened to rob him of his newly recovered speech (Quentin Letts writes). After the operation to remove fluid from his lungs, Mr Dockery, 42, a Tennessee policeman, managed to speak a few words to doctors.

He was shot by a drunk in 1988 and lay in a semivegetative state until last

week, when he "awoke" and spoke almost non-stop for 18 hours. He then lapsed into silence and hospital staff in Chattanooga feared the operation might destroy his chances of speaking again.

Once the anaesthetic had worn off, Mr Dockery again spoke a few, halring words. Asked what time it was, he replied "night" and then "three o'clock". He was a little off the mark, as the clock in



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THE WORLD'S BEST AEROSIC EXERCISERS	

Lady Hollis, heroine of new Labour, tells why divorced wives should get half the pension



Lady Hollis. "Divorce always hurts, but we make it more painful. The letters are heartrending"

Lady champion of the broken-hearted

THE

VALERIE

GROVE

INTERVIEW

Heigham is one of the haired, chic and a PhD, educated at a state school and Cambridge: clearly new Labour fits her like a glove, but her roots were in the devout, salt-of-the-earth "old". Both her parents left school at 12, and strove to make their community a

In the House of Lords it is obvious that she is popular, conciliatory and collaborative, a crossparty networker and team player: in the bar she is constantly greeted and buttonholed by peers of every

persuasion. Her amendment to the Family Law Bill, allowing pension funds to be shared in divorce settlements, will be debated next week. It has enthusiastic all-party support in the Lords, where she led the debate, aided by Tory Baronesses Young

It is simply reasoned in her rapid, breathless delivery. "Divorce always hurts. But we make the financial settlement more painful, by not allowing the couple to split what may be their biggest asset, the pension. So a loyal wife and mother may face an old age on income

support.
All we say is that the current value of the pension fund should be included in the matrimonial estate when it is assessed at the point of

Most men would actually prefer to take a short-term asset, to get themselves a new home, than the long-term pension asset which they may never live to enjoy. It is not an obligation, only an option, and it benefits both the parties.
The letters we've had are heart-

rending." she says. "Like the woman who spent 30 years looking after two disabled children, until she was 'traded in for a younger model'. Her part-time earnings had gone into her husband's pension plan, none of which could be assigned to her on divorce: now she earms what she can, but she faces

Patricia (nee Wells) was born in for a village hall and playing fields.

Methodist chapel, where Patricia, the eldest of three, played the harmonium and sang in the village

It was a traditional dissenting radical background. "But it wasn't at all sour, despite the Methodism and trade unionism and parish politics. It was generous and inclu-

sive and open and optimistic."

From her grammar school, now a comprehensive, most pupils left at 15 to work on the land. Patricia was one of half a dozen who stayed

in history and won a Harkness fellowship. "So I was in the United States when Martin Luther King had his dream. I marched with my American boyfriend in the civil rights campaign.

summer organising baked bean runs to Mississipni — by Jimmy Hoffa's Teamsters' Union.

Bobby Kennedy for corruption: It was an early lesson in ideology versus pragmatism. She came home with a fiance, Martin Hollis. another Harkness fellow destined for the Foreign Office and Balliol. After her doctorate, both found jobs at the new University of East Anglia, where she still teaches history on Fridays. Their two sons went to the local comprehensive (no Harman-like embarrassments here) and flourished: one went to: Cambridge, one to Edinburgh

er husband, a tall, sandy-haired Wyke-Roger Hollis of MI5, is UEA's Professor of Philosophy, a Labour supporter, author of Rationality and Relativism, The Cunning of Reason, and so on. He lists puzzles" as his recreation in Who's Who. When they were young and that electricity follows the laws

more council houses than any other city - as a former leader of the city council. She joined the housing committee just in time to stop the slum clearance of Victorian houses; hence those Sandtexed terraces. now a feature of Norwich's charm. churches. Her mentor was her predecessor, Sir Arthur South, an old-style city leader of substance

Tony Crosland spotted her parliamentary potential and co-opted on: she got to Girton College, her into his advisory group, and Cambridge, where she took a first she three times fought Tory Great Yarmouth for

> the offer of a safe Midlands seat proved to be her glass ceiling.
> "My children
> were 10 and 12." would have been living in Norfolk, I would be at Westminster with

Labour in the

a constituency in the Midlands. It wasn't fair on the family." And that, goodbye West-minster, until Neil Kinnock put her in the Lords in 1990. When she first arrived in the

Lords she recalls telling fellow peers about Alan Clark writing an essay, while at Eton, about a family in which "the mother was poor, the father was poor, the children were poor and the butler was poor". This story was greeted in silence, one peer said: "I know lots of families like that." She laughs

But she loves the lordly camara-derie, including the hereditary peers who so often bring an expertise from chairing charities. And because there is no braying. it's much easier for women's voices to be heard.

The Commons may be more workmanlike and professional in terms of politics, but since we have no Speaker, there is a premium on the courtesies here. It sounds flowery at first, but you learn to

decorous exchanges, notable for their candour (Lord Pearson of Rannoch, currently involved in a divorce sentement himself: "It seems obviously fair, fair beyond peradventure, that my wife should in future be able to share in my substantial pension fund ...") and their wit (Earl Russell: "I can see no reason whatever why one party should suffer all the hardship. There is a case for some fairness even in hardship ..."

When she can tear herself away from Westminster she sings (alto) in the university choir ("fiendishly concentrated; a way of wiping your mind clean of politics"), sails their "Nodey boat" (a 27ft motor cruiser) on the Norfolk Broads; and wallows in domesticity: "I like the serenity of a place of peace, I like the warmth and support of a family. I loved those Sunday roasts with three generations of the family round the table."

ast year her husband was away teaching in North Carolina, and their eldest son, the jazz piano-playing Simon, is on a Fulbright scholarship in New York, so the family had a Christmas reunion in snowy Manhattan.

She also manages to write: her last book, Ladies Elect, was on Victorian women who organised school boards and workhouses more women were elected to office next will be on Jennie Lee. Appointed biographer by Michael Foot and Lord Goodman, she is fond of her subject but: "Coming from the ILP she was a little too keen to divide the world into black and white for my tastes - suspicious of conciliation and compromise."

Ouite the reverse of Lady Hollis, who relishes working across party lines. It is not really surprising that she was credited with influencing Alan Howarth's decision to cross the floor - a canard put out by credulous Tories playing cherchez

She is entirely at home in Tony Blair's party, relishing her social security brief because you can make a real difference to people's

AMINI RUMANIN

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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The Bachelor Boy as mean and moody Heathcliff? The Magazine finds Cliff Richard aiming to command the Wuthering Heights for his new musical



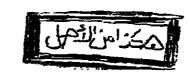
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The Samaritans

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



rriving in Lahore by private jet, wrapped in private jet, with provide local apparel of a very local pink, a studiedly demure Princess of Wales stepped out into the Eastern glare. The colour of her clothes was apt, for the Goverrament of Benazir Bhutto is reported to be quite pink with rage — and our Foreign Office to be a brighter shade of that

hue with embarrassment. The jet in which the Princess flew to Pakistan belongs to Sir James Goldsmith, Britain's most famous father-inlaw. The royal visitor is in this stately Punjabi city to meet Sir James's daughter Jemima and her husband. The former, mercifully, is not called Haiqa any more. The latter, lest you have forgotten, is called Imran.

Imran Khan Is there a Pakistani better known to us than he? The Princess's visit

Imran's new role isn't quite cricket Why are we so fascinated by

Imran Khan? Tunku Varadarajan unravels an Eastern enigma

ly spiced kebabs are what she ate), and her visit yesterday to his cancer hospital have helped the balding, retired cricketer to hit his favourite target - the middle-stump of our imagination.

But whence comes the British fascination with Imran? Is it merely because he is thought to be handsome? Is it Oxford? Is it cricket? Is itbecause he is an Easterner who, having slept his way

to Lahore, her dinner with through several of "our" him (sheep's brains and mild-women, is now married to women, is now married to one? Whatever the answer. Imran Khan needs deconstructing. Kipling's wily Pathan, clearly, has travelled a long, long distance from his wily North-West ways.

The tale of Imran is, of course, more complex by far than the man: Imran himself is a bundle of self-righteous platitudes and ludicrous Pathan sentimentality. The tale has only partly to do with his 88 Test matches, many of



Jemima and Imran Khan with their royal visitor

them played as a bossy captain. To the British, the interlies in the following imagined sequence of cultural progression: Imran, not one us" to start with, became

"one of us" (or so we thought). but is now apparently "not one of us" again - or so some of us think, none the wiser after having observed him for

Britain, imbibed the ways of a part of its society, grew to love its pleasures and to pursue them single-mindedly. In the circles in which he mixed, he was viewed indulgently: the British upper classes have always had a soft spot for dashers from the sub-continent. The taboos on interracial sex — so powerful in Kipling's time - had, by the time of Imran's emergence into Stringfellow's manhood, evolved into nothing more malign than the delicious aftertaste of forbidden fruit.

What saved Imran from being dismissed as a bounder, however, was his cricket. He played magnificently, cultivating an imperious on-field field persona that vital infusion of aristocracy. In time, of course, he came to believe the myths of his own making. His treatment of his team-mates was disdainful: he was the feudal sirdar, or lord, they his underlings.

Yet his esteem in Pakistan has always been measured in a different way. A leader of men. Imran has always struck with awe a population accustomed to the firm hand. In a land where victory on the cricket field is, mistakenty, believed to add to the country's good name, Imran was lionised as the man who put Pakistan truly on the map no small accolade, for Pakistan has been on the

map for less than 50 years. If his hubris drove Imran to stirring deeds on the cricket field, it has caused him to succumb to his country's adulation. It has bestowed upon him a grandeur for which he is not equipped intellectually. His naive endorsements of political Islam, of the frankly primitive ways of many of his Pathan frères, and the richness of his crincism of "brown sahibs" and Western ways, betray immediately that the man is out of his depth.

Still, he has his cancer hospital, although it is not immediately clear why Pakisian needs such an institution more urgently than basic, countrywide medical faciliries. And he and Jemima have had the Princess of Wales to when one thinks about it. Perhaps some of us have missed his point?

Gambling, Hollywood style . . . in Britain the lure is likely to be the free soft drinks

Is gambling in Britain really a dangerous game? Giles Coren reports Sex in spades

emblazoned with a golden horseshoe lumbers under the weight of a stack of poker chips which he has been constructing since II o'clock the previous evening. He hauls them up onto the counter, where a lugubrious old man in a dinner jacker counts them rapidly with

white-gloved fingers. The fingers reach into a drawer and count out a pile of banknotes, which the young man, a 21-year-old lawver called Matt Bourne, folds into his back pocket, "Six hundred and fifty," he says, and purses his lips, "God, I love this place. What about you?"

I, as usual, have no chips left to exchange. I am scrabbling in my wallet for a forgotten pound coin to plug into a fruit machine which might, if I strike the jackpot, make up the deficit of another night sacrificed on the altar of greed.

This is the fundamental human frailty on which Martin Scorsese's Casino (released today) has cashed in, continuing the century-old love affair between casinos and the cinema, but portraying drug dependence, divorce and death as inevitable corollaries of casino life.

Things are a little less grim at the Victoria in London's Edgware Road, one of the biggest of Britain's 120 casinos, where terribly nice young English people are spending more and more time, attracted by the free food and drink at the tables, the chance to play a role on a ready-made film set. and the timeless money for nothing.

"It is nothing like America." says Matt, who began playing at the Vic after falling in love with cards at the 1992 World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. "There they ply you with drink until you are throwing your money at them in handfuls. In Britain you get free soft drinks and food, but drinking at the table is illegal."

This law is one of many. enshrined in the 1968 Gaming Act, which are designed to protect innocent Brits from the horrors of gambling. It is because of this Act that British casinos must close by 4am and abide by the notorious 48-hour rule - which forbids you from playing until you have been a member of a casino for at least two days - thus, theoretically, preventing passers-by from blowing their pay cheques on

an impulse. The protection sounds fair enough when you hear Robert De Niro, as a Mafia casino boss, say at the beginning of Casino: "We're the only winners. The players don't stand a chance." The cardinal rule, he says, is to "keep them playing, and keep them coming back. The longer they play the more

"Ah, but those are the mugs who play croupler games," says Matt. They have to beat the bank. At poker, I only have to beat you." Others have a more devil-

may-care approach. Olly is a rall, rangy Old Etonian with choirboy-blond hair who cares less about the losing than the taking part. "It is all so wonderfully tacky," he says. "I used to go to Crockfords and Aspinalls in Mayfair, and found them even more vulgar but in a country where the pubs shut at II it is the only alternative to an Eestasy-crazed rave in a muddy field."

Everyone here is passably well turned out. For gambling, in these days of lonery fever, must be dressed up to differen-

'The croupier pushes a stack of chips — and there you are, smoking and all

glamorous'

tiate itself from the cheap pursuit of hopeless wealth. "It is part of the 1990s irony thing, like easy listening and board games," says Liz, a 24year-old television researcher by day, slinky succubus of the gaming rooms by night. "It is nice to put on smart clothes and go to a silly place where

The influence of the movies is not to be ignored. "There is that great scene in Golden-

people are playing with

eye," says Liz, "when Famke Janssen is up against James Bond. Her red lipstick and fantastic cleavage against his jawline and suavity. It is pure sex. The woman invades his macho world, and takes him on on his own terms. The last time I saw a Bond film I was too young to go to a casino, but this time I headed straight

there after the film. "I love the macho environment. All these big lat men look at you like you don't have enough money to play with them, and they are probably right. It will cost you 25 or 50 quid for a couple of decent spins on the roulene wheel, but if you win, then who

knows? "Girls are supposed to be deferent — we have to be paid for at dinner and if we carn more than our boyfriends then we are not supposed to mention it. I have to pretend to be shy all the time. So it's fun to wagger into a casino and jam 50 quid on a couple of numbers."

Among the female players. this sexual reversal seems to be crucial. Imogen, 27. a psychotherapist, explains: Boys get to play at being aggressive all the time, so I like to play up to the plunging neckline image and take on some sweaty businessman. Your number comes up, or you make 21 at blackjack, the chips in your direction, and there you are smoking your cigarene and being all glamorous.

The air over the tables is barely breathable. "Gamblers smoke because they are shortterm thinkers," says Etonian Olly. "You wouldn't gamble if you were someone who thought carefully about the future. You are not even thinking about next Tuesday. It is all about here and now. which is why young people like it. There is just you, your money, your fags and your drink, It's a bit like life."

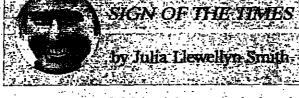
There are nods of concurrence around the craps table. "In a world of Aids, recession, of caution and precaution," agrees Man, it is important to shut yourself away in this hidden place, play out a fantasy life and forget the greyness of the world."

At about half past three Imogen asks someone the time. No one knows. There are no clocks in the Victoria. And there are none on any casino walls anywhere in the world. In America this is because they don't want you to look up and see that it is morning, and time to join your spouse by the pool. In England, with our puritan closing time, it is just another part of the game.

"It is one area where the Government doesn't try to protect us, says Man, They haven't made clocks compulsory yet." And everyone tosses in their chips for a last all-ornothing spin of the wheel.

It's a small world in a gap year

THEY ARE everywhere, dressed in ragged shorts and a bewildering array of charm bracelets. Halfway up the High Atlas mountains, in the bar of a Bolivian brothel and on the remotest beaches of Thailand, 18-year-olds with names like Jemima and Freddie are having their "gap year, as mandalory a part of the middle-class maturing process as violin lessons, braces and French exchanges. No year between school



or assisting Mother Teresa as she mops the brows of the sick and needy. The more exotic the loca-

and university is complete these days without at least six

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Requests for application forms should be

received no later than 11th March

months being spent helping with the harvest in Nicaragua points are stored to be cashed in at the freshers' tea party. And, of course, your Peruvian mobiles look fantastic in your dingy halls of residence, while your tan is set off perfectly by your sky-blue Namibian tion, the more credibility

in the 1960s, anyone with pretensions to sophistication did the hippy trail to Kathmandu. The point of such a journey was to have fun, take illegal substances and return with a goatee, an Afghan coat that stank in the rain and a

host of incurable bowel infections. In these career-orientated times, however, no one dares confess that a gap year is simply a once in a lifetime opportunity to find a place where beers cost only a few pence, to lie in the sun all

day, to grow your

first stubble and to return with scores of films showing your friends swaying bleary-eyed around a camp fire or mooning out of the back window of a bus halfway up the Andes.

Oh no, the whole point of a gap year, practitioners will earnestly assure you is to help those less fortunate than oneself and in the process to become a better and wiser Strangely, one seldom hears of 18-year-olds finding

themselves by helping out in a

home for battered wives in the suburbs of Leicester. In the 18th and 19th centuries young gentlemen, and sometimes ladies, marked the transition from adulthood to adolescence with a Grand Tour, usually of Europe. The ostensible purpose of this

journey was to introduce the

Byzantine churches and Reever, in reality, says Dr Jeremy Black, the author of The British Abroad: The Grand Tour of the 18th Century, the sons of the elite were being sent away to sow their wild oats in foreign obscurity. "Young men of 18 or 19 had

nothing to do in those days. when university was basically for aspiring clergymen," he says. "The Grand Tour was an ideal way of keeping them occupied for a year or so.' Cheap air travel means

such activities are no longer the preserve of the aristocracy. but still the hedonistic spirit

"I spent my gap year teach-ing in a school in India," recalls Michael Smith, 25. "It was very reward-It is a

chance to

drink

and lie in

the sun'

ing but the best time I had was travelling with my friends, once term had finished, getting drunk every night and having an extended holi cheap beer day at my parents' expense."
I went to a kib-

butz, supposedly to learn about a different way of life, but in fact all I wanted was to get away from England and sleep with lots of girls from all over the world." says Dominic Cleveland, 25.

John Patrick, a barrister who spent time before and after university in Zimbabwe. Turkey and Pakistan, says: "I went to these places to broaden my horizons and in some way improve my understanding of the world. But I only really found out what life was all about when I became a lawyer and started having to deal with children who had been abused and people who were going through bitter

"Most of my friends could tell you everything about Guatemala City." he adds. "but none of them has a clue what's going on in a council estate in Hull."





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Philip Howard



Scott Minor: could do better — but short measure is not your problem

Al.1 The reasons for the institution of this report on the Scott Report are that I have just knocked all six volumes off the mezzanine with my overcoat, almost poleaxing the news editor down below. Others have marked your essay for fairness, thoroughness, clarity and its consequences, with grades from alpha- to gamma-?. This report will deal with its grammar and prose style, in the way that Old Chalky or Robert Birley used to scribble wounding comments in red ink in the margins of our juvenile essays.

Al.2 I question your trick of flagging paragraphs with letters and numbers, as I do here for illustration. This worked for Wittgenstein's Tractatus, but irritates in less well-drilled arguments. Such labelling purports to lend an air of scientific precision to an otherwise rambling narrative. Al.3 As a general matter of style, how have

you managed to make a thrilling tale of sabre-toothed dictators, merchants of death, supergums and chicanery in high places as boring as Sainsbury's checkout bill

A2.1 Was it necessary to bang on at a length to eat up Sherwood Forest? Editors and pedagogues seldom thank candidates who write more than they are asked for or on both sides of the paper at once. BI.I To turn to the minutiae of grammar:

how many times have I told you, Scott, that in English the double negative is an absolute no-no? Yet you persist in constructing such sentences as: "I do not accept that he was not personally responsible." This takes the reader time to unscramble, and can end up giving the opposite meaning to that intended, as in: "There is no reason to doubt that what he said in his statement is not true." What was meant here was: "There is no reason to doubt that his statement is true." BI.2 I suspect that your first draft used more positive statements, such as: "He was personally responsible." But after some sixth-formers had criticised your essay, you sought to tone it down with double negatives. First thoughts usually work better than such blurring by committee.

B1.3 Your proliferation of abstract nouns. capital letters such as MODWG and OGEL, and double passives like "The point is sought to be evaded" add a new horror to Reportspeak. When you have finished with it, the English language looks as though it has been run over by a textbook on leasehold

B1.4 There is no need continually to write "in my opinion". Of course it is your opinion, otherwise it would not be in your essay, and your parents would not be paying large fees to have it corrected by me. You sound like a judge summing up with an eye on the verdict of Westminster.

B1.5 There is too much padding. Why start successive paragraphs with, "Perhaps even more significantly", followed by, "Most interestingly, perhaps"? Perhaps me no perhapses. What you write is either significant and interesting, or not. Presumably the former, otherwise what is it doing in your essay? Death to all formulaic introductions - mere throat-clearing before you get down

to business.

B1.6 You display a fourth-form exuberance for showing off with longer and inkhorn terms. Why all these "notwithstandings"? "Though" has one syllable instead of four and is also the word that most of us understand. They not-understand notwith-standing. "Whilst" is an archaism from the old-fashioned register of English once known as Times Ponderoso. "While" is the everyday word. "Whilst" is the word dressed up in full-bottomed wig. Off with its tail! Down with "utilise", up with "use".

ZZZI.99 Such ambiguity is a virtue in poetry. But it is a fault in an essay such as yours to trip your readers so often and make them remount and take your sentences again. Unless, of course, you wanted to be ambiguous. But you forgot that your essay was to be read by the old pedant who has the misfortune to be your form master. At the very least, you should have hired Beetle or one of his ingenious chums in Remove to sub-edit and tighten it up. When all is said and done, you never are. And now, having read your essay, I have what Beetle would call a orrible eadache. And I must take a couple of aspirates.



"Scott ... comple refuse to go... House teeters...

Now where've I seem that before?"

Come into the Garden

he day I wrote this column, I went to Covent Garden, to hear and see Samson et Dalila by Saint-Saëns, a work I have always loved, and my eyes gleamed when I remembered the Sidney Nolan settings, and the stunning end. Samson has one of the most familiar and beautiful songs in all music, "Softly awakes my heart". (I love to see the newcomers to the work when, with a start, they hear the jewel they know and discover that it comes from the very work they are hearing. I love any opera even more when my companion has never heard the work on offer, because I am introducing her to beauty that I am familiar with, and I now can share that

We sat in the orchestra stalls. I always do, because I have poor sight and because I like to be near the stage. Each of the seats cost me £120. I am able to pay such prices. Very many people — I should think almost all cannot. And I forgot, the programmebook, and a thick book it is, costs £3 (though you may take solace in the slip which is given out for nothing, with all the necessary details). No wonder that Covent Garden rarely has more than 17 people in it, most of whom are under the belief that they are in Drury Lane, seeing Miss Saigon.

But let us scrutinise more closely the Covent Garden tickets and their terrible prices - prices so terrible that only a multimillionaire like me can afford them, while tens of thousands of opera-lovers can only stand outside the building with the pigeons.

My £120 tickets were the highest in the house on that night. Those were the very best, but then the next rung down was £98. The next was £88. The next, £82. The next, £68. The next, £56. The next, £42. The next, £38. The next, £22. Those who are willing to take seats which have a somewhat restricted view (in Bayreuth there are seats from which you cannot see anything of the stage - Covent Garden isn't that bad), can go for a fiver. And you can stand for

Oh, no. I haven't finished yet. Not nearly finished. For I was glowing in the beauty of Samson, but if you were wanting tickets for other operas, every one of those prices would have been substantially cheaper, and if you love the ballet (as alas, I do not) you could Opera is not elitist, but a fountain from which we can all drink - and there are

plenty of cheap seats at Covent Garden actually be asking for tickets at the is a terrifying thought — that a wholly highest ballet price, snug and warm in the knowledge that those were a quarter artificial in that it cloaks a violent antiof the opera's highest. Now tell me who it was that said that only the rich

can go to Covent Garden, and I will spit At that point our dear colleague The Sun takes a hand. The Sun, you must and that idea does not stretch to opera. Indeed, if our dear colleague ever has its way, there will be no opera in the land, and shortly afterwards there won't be

any concerts either. Here is a headline from our dear colleague: "The Sun stops £50m lotto handout to opera - delight as toff scheme is KOd". At much the same time, the proposed Cardiff Opera House (Wales is always complaining — rightly — that all the great projects go to London)

has been cancelled, no doubt to the pleasure of our dear colleague The Sun.

ow I do not believe in conspiracies: our dear colleague The Sun did not dig tunnels and crawl through the land whispering "Down with op-era". But all of a sudden, the word has been transmogrified into something so shocking that when they hear it, stern mothers feel obliged to tell their offspring to go and wash their mouths out.

There is, I regret to say, a body of neonle - not necessarily ignorant of the arts and particularly music - who rejoice every time the gloomy Covent Garden financial figures are announced. What is more, within the body of people I describe, there are genuine opera-lovers who would love to see Covent Garden go down the hole, never to reappear. Absurd as it may seem, I have come to the conclusion that Rodney Milnes is right when he claims — and it artificial in that it cloaks a violent antiarts movement that has spread upwards from the tabloids to infest even the

And, of course, Covent Garden is the biggest and most gleaming target. Can you believe that there are people who not music-haters, they are only Covent Garden-haters, and they hate it because it is beautiful and rich in glory and sounds that can come only from God. So if it isn't the money, what is it? Well, anyone who puts a foot in-

side Covent Garden see that the toffs with their millions and their dinner-jackets are a figment of the mos hidicrous kind, and that they should be made to wear the Shirt of Nessus for 99 years. For I believe that

there is a tide coming in, a tide of opinion that would sneer at the very foundations of something like Covent Garden. What do you think it means when that creepy-crawly Gummer has to find a site for Covent Garden while it is being rebuilt, and he refuses the most obvious one - the Tower Bridge site. when Southwark council itself is happy to have it? Hark to the Southwark council leader:

I am very saddened and deeply concerned by this decision. We felt this prestigious development was appropriate for this part of the borough and would have made a positive contribution to the lives of the people of Southwark.

Jeremy Isaacs, throughout his turbulent reign as general director of the Royal Opera House, has had to fight countless dragons, not least, of course, the Dragon Money. He will feel a thousand tons lighter when he steps down, but of course the weight is nothing; to ride that bucking horse is nothing; what he will remember are the glorious sounds he heard and sights of

beautv he saw. But it is not only Jeremy Isaacs. I do not believe that anyone with any true feeling can walk into that wonderful building and not think that the world is a splendid place. I go very frequently to Covent Garden (and hardly less frequently to its younger brother, the ENO). What we feel when the curtain goes up is not just pleasure, but one of the bulwarks that hold up the world. An extravagant metaphor, you say? No, because art is not just something to give pleasure, though it certainly is that, but because the world could not go on without it, and that has been true since those pictures were drawn on the wall at Lascaux that turned out to be more than 15,000 years old, and which were discovered quite by accident all those millennia later

And if you put music on the stage and marry these two wonderful arts, there will be no sheering and jeering, except by fools and brutes.

hen you think of it there are people who have no art in their lives - an almost incredible situation to me. But there are people who are in a yet greater fork: they reject art. True, it is now very rare - though it was very frequent in my boyhood - for men and women to say such things as "Oh, I wouldn't dare to go into Covent Garden", but then dammit, only a year or two ago, I found an elderly lady hovering about the doors of Fortnum and Mason, who finally asked me. "Cananybody go in there?"

Come on. Jeremy, you have been bruised enough to be sufficiently toughened. And don't forget that when the new Covent Garden rises from the ashes, it will have a new leader. But for now, that building of yours is not just a place where opera and ballet are performed. It is a fountain from which we can all drink (remember, there are lots of cheap seats at Covent Garden), and if you promise not to tell, I will reveal what is the most remarkable fact about that Opera House: it is that the very best acoustics are by no means to be heard in the stalls — the most expensive seats — but in the amphitheatre, where the seats cost only a quarter of what they ask for the most expensive ones.

Why Boris is still our man

Robert Skidelsky on

the fragile success of

Yeltsin's Russia

Ill Russia become a "normal" nation-state, or will it lurch back towards communism? There are three possible views: pessimistic, optimistic, realistic.

The pessinustic view was put tren-chantly by Peter Reddaway in *The Times* of January 23. The West, he said, should "stop taking sides" in Russia's internal politics, recognise that the economic reforms have failed, and prepare seriously for dealing with a Russia run increasingly by Communists and nationalists." This, Reddaway implies, will be necessary whoever wins in June's presidential election.

A resumption of the Cold War would mean cancelling economic aid, coupled with an eastward expansion of Nato as quickly as possible, to "secure" Central and Eastern Europe while Russia remains weak. Such a policy would mark a colossal defeat for the larger hopes which accompanied the collapse of communism. But still there would be sizeable gains to the West — the recovery of the "lost lands" and the confinement

of Russia to a semi-Asiatic ghetto. The optimistic view is that the reforms launched in 1992 are irreversible, and that Yeltsin's Communist challenger, Gennadi Zyuganov, is a sheep in wolf's clothing. Anatole Kaletsky argued in The Times of February 20 that the Communists might be more effective reformers than the reformists themselves, because they would put an end to disorder and corruption. The pessimists and optimists share one conclusion: the West should not take sides, since

nothing much turns on the election. The realistic view is that a great deal turns on who becomes the next Russian President. The reforms have not failed. but neither are they irreversible. Russia's inflation rate — the main relevant measure of stability - has fallen steadily from 1.354 per cent in 1992, to 140 per cent in 1995, and is expected to fall to 40 per cent in 1997. The economy is expected to grow by 2 per cent this year and 4 per cent in 1997. About 60 per cent of output is now produced by the private sector. The legal basis of a capitalist economy is being painfully built. It is not a brilliant record, but far from one of failure.

he very fact that Yeltsin has to our himself forward for re-election is another proof that Russia is today a genuine: if fragile, democracy, with a multiparty system representing all major interests, and a remarkably free press. To argue that all this can be put into reverse is not to say that the Communists intend to renationalise the whole economy or scrap democracy. But to claim that the Communists can be trusted to carry out the reforms more effectively than Yeltsin because they stand for law and order, which Kaletsky interprets in a Western sense, is myopic. If the momentum of reform falters, the Communists will have an excuse to reverse much of what has been achieved. Kaletsky ignores the Communists' economic programme. Its centrepiece is to restore the primacy of the old heavy industrial sector and protect Russia's natural resources from "foreigners" and "speculators". Such a programme implies an attempt to remilitarise much of the economy, which would be catastrophic for Russian democracy.

To avert this possibility, it is important to have a reformer in the Kremlin. Yeltsin's reforming credentials are not impeccable, but over five years he has always returned to the charge, sidestepping opposition and gradually fashioning the necessary instruments of power and control. And despite blunders such as Chechenia, he has, on the whole,

ruled constitutionally. None of this means that the West should bank on a Yeltsin victory: his health is so uncertain that he may not even make it to polling day. But it should support him discreetly. The International Monetary Fund's subsidy of the Russian Government, now reduced to \$300 million a month, is a modest investment in continuing stability.

uch more important is for Western leaders to resist the clamour to expand Nato eastwards. Nothing could be more calculated to weaken the position of every democrat in Russia, and play into the hands of those itching to remilitarise the economy. No Russian can understand why we still need such a formidable military machine now the Cold War is over, still less why we seem intent on

extending it to Russia's borders. The idea that the West should have a free hand to reorder the security system of Eastern Europe regardless of Russia's view is both dangerous and historically ignorant: dangerous because Russia will not remain weak for ever, ignorant because no European security system can survive very long without being acceptable to those whose interests are most involved. At its best, the classic European balance of power entailed negotiation, not unilateral action, and this, not the obsolete thinking of the Cold War era, should be the guide to the construc-

tion of a new European security system.
Russia is bound to go on doing things we dislike, being more traculent than we want, and claiming exaggerated status and consideration. None of this means it is on the road back to communism. But our larger self-interest is to secure a free, prosperous and peaceful world; it is much too early to write Russia out of والإرج

and age.

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· Pry

A Social Market Foundation confer-

Ear apparent THE PRINCE of Wales has been Prince Harry. His son gets full

rapped over the knuckles for exposing his ears. He stands accused of neglecting the most famous lugholes in the land and the British Safety Council is making an example of him in a

nationwide advertising campaign. The council is appalled by a recent photograph in The Times which showed the Prince without ear-protectors on a shoot with



Prince of Wales: royal example

marks for sporting protectors but the Prince is seen flinching at the sound of Harry's gun.

More than 100,000 copies of the

poster featuring the royal ears, which are commonly compared to the handles of the FA Cup, will be distributed to factories and businesses across Britain to encourage people to protect their hearing.
"I saw the original photograph

and I thought that it's a very bad advert at a time when we are concerned about the problems of noise," says James Tye, directorgeneral of the council. "The Prince acted pretty stupidly. Being deaf is a terrible thing - so look after your hearing. And that applies to everyone, including the royals."

Royalists have rallied to the Prince's defence. "I think it is wrong," says Robin Scott, editor of Sporting Gun magazine. "The council would have had more success if it had said ear-protectors were possibly the best defence against a nagging wife."

● Good news for young blades came during the Oxford debate on Wednesday evening on Pride and Prejudice. Colin Firth, who played Mr Darcy in the BBC adaptation. is far less glamorous than his

lot of weight for the part and dye his light-brown hair dark," said the director, Simon Langton. "He doesn't look like Darcy in real life. He says that he is not even recognised in the pub.

Hats off

LORD WADDINGTON, the Governor of Bermuda, has decided to lay down his preposterous plumed helmet. Despite the luxurious colonial trappings he enjoys on a tax-free salary of some E75,000 a year, he has informed



never get a divorcer

the British Government that he wishes to return to Blighty early next year.

I was asked what I would like to do," says the 66-year-old former Home Secretary, "And for family reasons I would like to bow out in the first part of 1997."
Waddington's tenure in Bermu-

da, which began in 1992, has hardbeen onerous given its meagre population of 60,000. When Earl De La Warr was offered the post in 1941, he turned it down, complaining: "It's no bigger than Bexhill."

Jack the lad

ITS A SHAME that the Princess of Wales is on a private visit to Pakistan, rather than on an official tour. She would otherwise have encountered Christopher MacRae, the British High Commissioner who lives in Islamabad. MacRae, an athletic chap with a

sense of humour as dry as the Thar Desert, would have regaled her with his latest interest - his ancestors. He has recently been to the capital of Baluchistan, on the trail of his grandfather's cousin, "Jack was a colourful eye-sur-

geon who, in the early years of this century, cut down a local who had gone berserk and committed several murders," MacRae has been telling friends. "He then stitched him up again - so that he could stand trial and be hanged."

Glossy Tone

NEW LABOUR is going glossy a magazine as shiny as Tony Blair's smile will soon be available to party members. Labour Party News, which is circulated to party activists, is to be replaced by New Labour, New Britain. Next week, the National Executive Committee will fine-tune the details of the

publication. "It will be much glossier and aimed at the whole membership of the party, not just activists," rasps a surly spokeswoman. We hope it will look like a Sunday supplement magazine," she says.

Body politic HE WAS depicted as the villain of

the piece in the BBC2's cult docu-



mentary series The House. But nothing could have prepared Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House, for the reaction elicited by the programme from certain

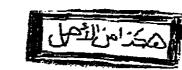
It is reported in this week's Spectator by no less an authority than Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the opera house, that ladies are

forever swooning over his man. "A smitten French countess, am solemnly informed, has of-fered a substantial sum for the body of Keith Cooper," writes

Cooper is modesty itself. "It's extraordinary," he says. "But if I am going to give my body. I should benefit from the proceeds, not the opera house."

P·H·S ence on investment in Russia will be held at the European Bank on March 8.

that script.





ISLAM AT SCHOOL

Christians respect other faiths by strengthening their own

Squabbles among religious denominations stunted the growth of England's education system in the last century. Squabbles over the proper place for our established religious traditions could equally blight the develop-ment of Britain's schools in the next. The withdrawal of Muslim children from religious education in Batley and Birmingham is an unhappy commentary on multifaith teaching and a challenge to the future of our multicultural society.

The 1988 Education Reform Act instructed schools to cater for the "moral, spiritual and cultural welfare" of their pupils. Schools are under a legal responsibility to provide religious education which reflects the UK's Christian traditions. It is a responsibility many discharge poorly, if at all. Last June Dr Nick Tate, the Government's main adviser on the curriculum, gave warning that Britain was "far advanced towards becoming a religiously illiterate society". RE is too often reduced to a relativist canter through the world's faiths in which Stone Age superstition merits the same reverence as the faith which underpins our civilisation. In a recent survey half of those between 16 and 24 did not know what Lent was.

And yet while the young are ignorant of the 40-day fast, they are more spiritually hungry than ever. It is interest in vapid New Age banalities and enthusiasm for cults and sects which absorb school-leavers. The credulity which hopes to find in the earth mother the spiritual satisfaction that our finest thinkers found in the Holy Father is a

anges red

lact on wh

sad consequence of RE teaching. Islamic families are already ill at ease with the predominant secular liberalism of the West which declines to defend absolute values. It is understandable then that as Muslims they should wish to withdraw their children from RE lessons which cheapen all faiths by vaunting none. And it is unsurprising that the strongest support for the Muslim militants should come from Chris-

tians who see their own faith cheapened by relativist religious education.

Religious education from an Islamic perspective might have much to recommend it. Islam is, at its best, an intellectual religion with a rich cultural heritage. It inculcates admirable moral virtues such as selfdiscipline and a proper concern for the poor. A wider appreciation of the nobler strains in Islamic thinking might improve Christians' own understanding of their traditions.

But in granting Islam its proper place, and conceding some of its claims, it would be wrong not to recognise that the United Kingdom is still a nation built on Judaeo-Christian foundations. From Milton to Eliot. the glories of our culture are rooted in the two Testaments and our durable morality is-

sustained by the spiritual insights of Jesus. Muslim nations expect compliance with their customs by those of other faiths. It is Britain's boast that religious liberty has been guaranteed since 1688. That liberty was preserved, however, by a people confident in their Christian traditions. More confidence now in upholding them would command greater respect from those of other faiths than agonised abdication.

It may be acceptable to allow separate RE for Muslim children. But the State should be wary of moving from there to funding separate Muslim schools. Segregated Muslim education would delight Islamic fundamentalists and do little to advance racial harmony. There is already evidence that the values Muslim parents wish to see instilled in schools are already being transmitted by those establishments most self-confident in their Christian faith. The Muslim parents of Maida Vale found their children's welfare was best guaranteed in the rigorously Catholic classrooms of Philip Lawrence's school. The greatest compliment a stillpredominantly Christian Britain can pay citizens who cleave to other faiths is not to

neglect its own inheritance.

EUROMYTHS THREE

Interests and illusions in European foreign policy

In Turin a month from now, heads of state will launch the European Union's latest inter-governmental conference. To what end? At Madrid last December, the best answer was that it would "bring the EU into line with today's realities and tomorrow's requirements". This wondrous bit of drafting saved politicians from admitting that they cannot agree what these "realities" and "requirements" are.

Such chopped logic is squarely in the tradition of the most tenacious of Euronyths: first create an institutional framework, and automatically there follows the requisite political will. At the conference, this remyth will be abused in support of a tighter common EU foreign and security policy. The argument goes like this. Europe will never count for anything in the world until the EU acts as one. It will act as one only if all its members accept give and take to arrive at common policies. To this end, they need a body to manage common foreign policies and a "European defence identity".

The first problem with this reasoning is that it stands history on its head. Alliances form where vital interests coincide - and not the other way round. They dissolve without the glue of common interest. The reason is simple. Foreign and security policies are fundamental expressions of national interest, not to be compromised unless compromise furthers that national interest. Each decision has to be taken on merit.

The argument that "Europe" would carry more weight by pooling sovereignty is equally subject to the test of pragmatism. It can be valid only when working together is more effective than preserving national freedom of action. Over former Yugoslavia, the problem was not the lack of a common foreign policy apparatus but the deep disagreements about what to do. Equally, many EU governments opposed military action to drive Iraq out of Kuwait; it is ludicrous to magine that Britain or France would therefore have declined to commit their troops. Germany's official answer to this is more majority voting, its unofficial answer is that Germany and France would drive the common foreign policy machine. In either case, bitter divisions would ensue, making Europe less, not more, stable and respected. France proposes that there should be an

EU "secretary-general for foreign policy", appointed by the Council of Ministers, "to give Europe a face and a voice". This would certainly give Washington what it has long wanted - a "single telephone number for Europe". Richard Holbrooke complained this month that during the latest confrontation between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean, "the Europeans were literally sleeping through the night". But a wake-up call to Brussels which revealed only that "Europe" was still thinking out its position would merely add to US exasperation.

Today John Major steps into the minefield of Europe's "defence identity" in a speech to the Western European Union. If the EU is serious, it has first to decide who will pay and how much. Even France is now slashing its defence budget. Unless a common defence policy enhances Nato's already proven capacity to project power jointly, it will hardly make Europe more stable.

EU governments can and should co-operate more closely. But the best way to do so is for governments that are ready to exert leadership on a particular issue to look more actively for allies. A case in point is Bosnia last summer where, however late in the day. Franco-British pressure galvanised America into setting up the Holbrooke mission. The key decision, however, was to send in armour and artillery - a risky course of action that would never have been decided by, or left to, an EU committee however skilfully it was constituted. So long as the interests of the EU's 15, or 25 future, members diverge, the most likely result of a prior commitment to act in common would be paralysis.

LAND OF EAGLES

Albania is a growing country - and grateful too

Seldom can a visit so short have produced a welcome so effusive. Malcolm Riskind touched down in Tirana on Wednesday on his way home from Greece, and President Berisha was delighted. "I would like to thank the British taxpayers for all the help they have given to my country." In turn Mr Rifkind was able to announce the appointment of the first British Ambassador to serve in Albania. Yesterday a happy Albanian Finance Minister - surely one of the world's more thankless appointments - was able to state that the Bank of England is finally. after a delay of 50 years, to return 1.5 tonnes of gold to the impoverished state treasury.

Cut off by 45 communist years, Albania has bounced back into the world. There is little that its people can do about the 700,000 concrete bunkers scarring their land, but they can at last celebrate their democracy. their increasing normality and their Muslim religion - as they have been doing in force to mark the end of Ramadan. Next month they go to the polls. President Berisha's Democracy Party faces a strong challenge. abut he himself, a smiling heart surgeon, remains popular. An 8 per cent growth rate may be easy, in a country that five years ago had no private cars and only 40 lorries. But

it is a growth that has made this Land of Eagles live up, at least partly, to its name. Albanians boast a wild and glorious history: Skanderbeg, their 15th-century hero, held out against 13 Turkish invasions and became the toast of medieval Christendom. Later, forcibly converted, Albanians served as janissaries to the Ottoman sultan and monarchs in his Egyptian provinces. Albanians have produced figures as craggy and

David Farmer, Murray Grainger, Phuyong Nguyen, Neil Varley and Ian Watson. idiosyncratic as their unique language: from What is remarkable is that six of Enver Hoxha at one extreme to Mother these accordionists were trained in Teresa at the other, with the bizarre King London. Owen Murray (whose agent Zog adding a touch of unreality. am) is Professor of Accordion Stu-Nowadays, this country of only 3.3 dies at the Royal Academy of Music and his six colleagues in the band

million, off the tourist track and as poor as The Gambia, is often overlooked. It should not be: it has played a restrained and responsible role in not inflaming its ethnic cousins in Kosovo; it has sought to learn the ways of the West with an innocent enthusiasm that has heartened international lenders; and it has shown that a little knowhow assistance, sensibly applied, can bring enormous changes. The world may miss the the once raucous propaganda from Radio-Tirana, now thankfully silent. Instead, it has the gentle thanks from one of the few leaders ready to acknowldge outside generosity.

writing in praise of the role of the At-torney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, in the Matrix Churchill case (Give Lyell a fair trial", February 20), states that it was well understood that the minister had to identify and advance to the court the public interest in the doc-ument being withheld. The court then

ed and what happened". I refer Lord Alexander to the Scott report. At G13.58 is set out the DTI's solicitor's note of a meeting held by Michael Heseltine with the officials. It

had to balance that against the advan-

tages of disclosure in the individual

case. That is exactly what Lyell advis-

From Lord Hutchinson, OC

Sir. Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC,

The President of the Board of Trade expressed serious concern at the overall basis of the prosecution. The papers he had seen suggested that Departments had been well aware of the intended military use of the goods yet the defendants seemed to be being prosecuted for concealing that from the DTI.

The President goes on to say that if the judge allowed disclosure "it would look as though he had been engaged

in an attempted cover-up".

The Attorney-General's legal secretary conveyed the President's view to the Attorney ("He thinks it to be in the public interest for the document to be disclosed"). She included her whole file, and warned the Attorney that

"the prosecution may yet come to a sticky end" [GI3.64].
Four days later Sir Nicholas, without reading any of the documents, nonetheless told the President that in law it was his duty to claim immunity for the documents on grounds of the public interest, "whatever his personal views" [G13.65].

Michael Heseltine signed a PII under protest and only on the understanding that the Attorney would see that the judge's attention was drawn to his views. He expressed his own views in a letter to Sir Nicholas. This letter, to Scott's "astonishment", was left unread until after the trial [G13,70].

Prosecuting counsel was not told of the President's view, nor of his letter, and neither was the judge. Counsel was instructed by Customs and Excise solicitors to resist disclosure and submitted that the documents were irrelevant to the defence. He told the judge that the President's attitude

Tanker disaster

From Mr Arthur Ellison

for a short time.

It has now emerged that the pump

room in the Sea Empress became

flooded, making discharge of the

cargo to another tanker a very difficult

and lengthy process. The possibility of explosion, highlighted by the media, was most likely to have come from the

oil gases in the flooded pump room.

nature, surely the British Govern-

ment and Lloyd's could jointly sup-

port their own salvage tug and equip-ment, perhaps based at Falmouth?

Tighter inspection of channel

depths and illuminated channel

buoys in the approaches to oil-dis-charge ports and of tanker arrival

draughts appears to be necessary.

These measures would be inexpensive

and simple to establish and would

perhaps reduce the likelihood of simi-

Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wiltshire.

Sir, Barry Millington tells us in his review (February 20) of the performance of Prokofiev's Cantata for the 20th an-

niversary of the October Revolution

(BBC Symphony Orchestra under

Mark Elder) that the accordion band

went uncredited. Please allow me to

provide the missing information: Owen Murray, Wilhelmina Drayton,

were either past or current students.

The performance was a credit to

Owen Murray's pioneering work on

behalf of this fascinating but under-

appreciated instrument, and also to

the Royal Academy of Music, the only

music college in the UK sufficiently

enlightened to offer accordion studies

ZACHARY.

within its syllabus.

GWENNETH BRANSBY-

Director, GBZ Management,

Yours faithfully.

Zachary

lar accidents in the future.

Accordion band

From Ms Gwenneth Bransby

Yours faithfully.

I Southeroft Drive,

A ELLISON,

February 22.

To minimise future disasters of this

was no different from that of the ministers who had agreed other certifi-

Lyell's decision 'an abdication of the duties of his office'

Sir Richard Scott comments on the absurdity of the notion that a minister who believes justice requires the documents to be disclosed is nonetheless obliged to recommend to the court that they be not

duties of his office. He has the superput it in a statement in the Commons

Secret Intelligence Service operations act on judicial decision there!

Yours faithfully, JEREMY HUTCHINSON, House of Lords. February 20.

From Mr Martin Thomas, QC

The first criminal proceedings in which PH certificates were ever used were Ex parte Osman in 1990 (letter. February 21) concerning extradition to Hong Kong. In that case, the court re-

In a subsequent hearing, in February 1992, counsel for the Foreign and

spection by the judges the documents subject to a PH certificate claim. This

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

disclosed. I have no hesitation in rejecting it The case against the Attorney-Gen-

eral surely is that he abdicated the intendence of all prosecutions; he is given the power to intiate or stop any prosecution: he is head of the Bar of England; he is — as Lord Shawcross in 1951 — "the protector of the public

While insisting on the President's duty to claim immunity in relation to documents essential to the defence, Sir Nicholas was happy to allow another minister. Kenneth Clarke as Home Secretary, to waive protection and exercise his discretion to disclose and procedures on behalf of the Crown when the latter wished to call an SIS contact of one of the defendants, Mr Henderson, in rebuttal to the defence [G13.101]. No balancing

Scott found that "this was a prosecution which never should have been commenced" [Gl.1]. It was the Attornev-General who could and should have stopped it.

Sir, The question the Attorney-General has to answer is why public interest immunity certificates were used in the Matrix Churchill case at all.

fused my application to read the docu-ments for which immunity was claim-

Commonwealth Office, despite the suggestion of the presiding judge, Lord Woolf, refused to release for in-

was said to be "on principle" - aithough the Hong Kong Government did accede to the court's request and their documents were indeed inspected by the judges, who decided, no doubt for good reason, not to disclose

them to me. The Attorney-General could have instructed counsel in Matrix Chur-chill to withhold the documents as 'sensitive material" under the Attorney's guidelines of 1982: these are standard procedures customarily used to protect sensitive information in the hands of the authorities. All courts and counsel are familiar with

But in June 1992, the Court of Appeal in the Judith Ward case (Law Report, June 8, 1992) ruled for the first time, that documents withheld under the guidelines should be disclosed to the trial judge and that he, and not prosecuting counsel, should decide whether the defence should see them.

This was the background when Treasury counsel, who had appeared for the FCO in 1990 in Ex pane Osman, advised the Attorney on September 3, 1992, that it was appropriate for ministers to sign PII certificates in Matrix Churchill.

Ministers were led to suggest that death - or, in Tristan Garel-Jones's by now famous phrase, "unquantifiable damage" — would happen if the defence got hold of the documents. As Scott rightly states, never before had a PII certificate been employed in a criminal trial before a judge and jury in Britain.

Did it cross the Attorney's mind that the prosecution might have the option "on principle" to withhold these documents in the trial? Or that the trial judge might be so impressed by the threats that the heavens would fall, as not to inspect them? Or that he might be less ready to release them to defence counsel than documents withheld under the guidelines and therefore subject to the new Ward principles of inspection and disclosure? Thank goodness Judge Smedley

had the guts not to fall for it. Yours sincerely, MARTIN THOMAS, 1 Dr Johnson's Buildings. Temple, EC4.

Labour's policy on school standards

From the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads Association

Sir, The Sea Empress incident (re-ports, February 22) highlights again the damage these ships cause to our Sir, I was surprised and disappointed David Blunkett (letter, rebruary and the seas around them. The Dutch 15) should challenge the commitment firm that won the contract to salvage of the Secondary Heads Association to this ship is world famous in this type raising educational, standards and of work. However, they obviously did suggest that we stopped short of supnot have one of their own powerful porting practical measures. It was precisely because we found so few tugs immediately available to tackle the job. The Sea Empress did refloat practical measures in it that we critibut the tug power on site was inadecised his party's document, Excellence quate in the prevailing weather condifor Everyone (report, February 13). tions and the ship regrounded. A large powerful Chinese tug assisted We warmly welcome and fully

share Labour's commitment to raising standards and we have plenty of practical proposals, based on experience and knowledge of schools, to offer to Labour, if they would care to ask. So far, they have not done so.

Mr Blunkett's letter deals with three practical matters. The first is a national qualification for heads. We support this and, if the qualification is based on sound training and proven practice, no governing body will wish to appoint a head who has not obtained it. A national register would be a bureaucratic irrelevance.

We are delighted to accept Mr Blun-

kett's assurance that schools will run themselves and that powers will not be restored to local education authorities: that is precisely what we were

looking for in the document and failed Thirdly, we fully support the principle of homework and it is helpful to have national support for it. We are enthusiastic about study centres for pupils who have poor home facilities for doing homework. We just do not believe that it is the business of ministers to prescribe the quantity of work for every child in the land.

It is sad that Mr Blunkett should react to criticism by insulting our professional commitment. He should really try to understand the message we are sending him: we support his aims. We just want to know how they are going to be achieved and we are ready and willing to discuss these matters with him.

Yours faithfully. JOHN SUTTON. General Secretary. Secondary Heads Association. 130 Regents Road, Leicester. February 16.

Causes of the left

From Mr Stuart Weit Sir, I object to Daniel Johnson's com-

placent canard (article, February 21) that the New Statesman has been the home of lost causes since Anthony Howard ceased to be editor. I should, for example, think that Duncan Campbell's brilliant series of "secret society" articles in 1987, culminating in the exposure of the spy satellite Zir-con, counted as a substantial winning streak.

In my own time as editor, the New Statesman took up the causes of democratic renewal, constitutional reform and citizen's rights, and in 1988 I founded Charter 88 from its offices to campaign vigorously for these causes. We can fairly claim to have seized a major chunk of the intellectual high

ground and to have profoundly influenced both Labour Party policy and public opinion. Matthew d'Ancona, in a recent article in The Daily Telegraph has suggested that Charter 88 may prove to be "the most persuasive think-tank of the past decade".

As the Scott report demonstrates once again, the causes the New Statesman identified in 1987 go to the very heart of political debate in this country. Right-wing writers are making an important contribution to that debate, but on the case for democratic change and its direction, the left and liberal intelligentsia have more than proved their equals.

Yours etc. STUART WEIR (Editor. New Statesman, 1987-91), 15 Grazebrook Road, N16. February 21.

Many thanks

From Mrs Rebekah Budenberg

Sir, Perhaps the solution to extracting thank-you letters from children (letters, February 16, 20) is to make it clear that no letter of thanks means no present next time. This should also apply to adults receiving presents from

Yours faithfully. REBEKAH BUDENBERG, 50 Main Street, Medbourne. Leicestershire. February 20.

From Mr David J. Powell

Sir. With a little more hardware added to his computer, Mrs Jean Stephenson's grandson (letter, February 20) could have sent his thank-you letters The Italian Building, Dockhead, SEI. by e-mail or fax, so avoiding the equally old tradition of an invigorating walk to the post-box.

Yours faithfully DAVID J. POWELL Tree Toos, Brooms Green, Dymock, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs Jennifer Donkin

Sir. In our heritage conscious times is saying thank-you now to be regarded (Mrs Stephenson's letter) as "an old tradition?

Yours faithfully, JENNIFER DONKIN, 13 Roman Hill, Barton, Cambridge,

Business letters, page 25

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

The Thames stairs — what a drama

From Mr Rodney Bewes

Sir. The stairs and steps which once gave access to the Thames, and which the London Rivers Association now plans to rebuild (News in brief, February 14), were once of great importance to the theatrical profession.

The ferrymen and wherrymen brought the public across the river to the theatres, and Thomas Doggett, actor-manager of Drury Lane, started his famous race in 1716 (still raced today) to thank the watermen for bringing his audience to him, as well as in

praise of the royal house of Hanover.
There must be over 50 sets of stairs between Chiswick Steps, halfway up the Boat Race course, and the Thames Barrier, if I were to row from Pumey to Charing Cross Pier, a few steps from the stage door of the theatre where I work, I would pass Red House Stairs at Battersea and Yorkshire Grey Stairs at Chelsea. Ahead would lie Old Bull Wharf Stairs at The Temple, Stew Lane Stairs after Puddle Dock, Old Swan Stairs by London Bridge, and Fountain Stairs on the south bank at Bermondsey.

On the north bank, after Tower Bridge, come Union Stairs, Wapping Old and Wapping New Stairs. King, Pelican and New Crane Stairs at Shadwell, and Coal and Bell Wharf Stairs at the beginning of the Lime-house Reach. On the opposite bank are Globe Stairs, Shepherd and Dog Stairs, Cuckold's Point Stairs and Gardens Stairs by Greenwich Pier.

And that's just a few! Yours sincerely, RODNEY BEWES (Freeman, Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames). c/o Playhouse Theatre, By Arundel Stairs, Embankment, WC2. February 20.

Hereditary peers

From Mr Richard Berkley-Matthews

Sir, In the debate in your columns over the future of the House of Lords (letters, February 9, 13, 16), nobody has acknowledged the advantage produced by the presence of the hereditary principle - the random selection of very much younger members than could ever be made by election or appointment. Shame on the elected house that in January 1995 it fell to the then 24-year-old Lord Freyberg to sort out the position of pension-dependent

Yours faithfully. R. BERKLEY-MATTHEWS, As from: 35 York Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, SW11.

College loyalties

From Mr Nigel L. Denton

Sir, Oxford University's Commission of Inquiry is, of course, quite right to resist pressure to reform the college system (report. February 19). My own loyalty is entirely to my own college. New College. I still retain many friendships from my undergraduate days there. Although I read mathematics, lasting friendships were formed with contemporaries reading classics,

English or history.
In the chapel of New College there is, perhaps, the clearest indication that the college never rejects its own as there is a war memorial to German members of the college who were killed in the Great War: "In memory of the men of this college who coming from a foreign land entered into the inheritance of this place &, returning, fought and died for their country 1914-

Yours faithfully, NIGEL L. DENTON, 12 Maria Court, Southcote Road, Reading, Berkshire.

Uncivil comment

From Ms Jeanie Fenwick Elliott

Sir. The contention made by Professor Alec Broers (report, February 21) that engineers are dull and need to "get themselves a life" receives support from another quarter. As pointed out in your columns in June 1994, the entry under "Boring" in the London Central Yellow Pages reads simply: "See: Civil Engineers".

Yours faithfully, J. E. F. ELLIOTT, 26 Pembridge Villas, WII. February 21.

Home and away

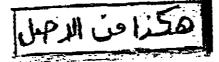
From Mr Norman McCandlish Sir, In the new era of professionalism,

it's time for the Rugby Football Union to find a new anthem for their team. It is arrogant to appropriate the anthem of the United Kingdom to England alone. It causes much unseemly booing when played at away matches, which can only add to the weight of alienation and rejection felt by Jack Rowell, the manager, and his lads as they prepare to face their op-

An appropriate anthem shouldn't be difficult to find. Perhaps Ted Hughes could be persuaded to fit words to The Archers' signature tune.

Yours sincerely, NORMAN McCANDLISH, Knockintober, Ballinluig, Perthshire. February 20.

Forthcoming marriages





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 22: The Queen this visited the United Westminster Almshouses, Rochester Row, London SWI, and was received by the Foundation Chairman (the Lady Trend) and the Lord Mayor of Westminster (Councillor Alan Bradicy).

Her Majesty toured the Almshouses, escorted by Sir Reginald Pullen (Warden and Clerk to the Trustees) and Miss Alison McWilliam (Matron, Kent House), and met residents and staff.

ST JAMES'S PALACE February 22: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received Mr John James (Secretary and Keeper of the Records).

His Royal Highness, Patron. Abbeyfield, afterwards received epresentatives.

The Prince of Wales later attended a Luncheon with Her Majesty's Judges at the Central

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Samuel Pepys, dia-

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, will hold an investi-ture at Buckingham Palace at

Today's royal

engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Victim Support Scotland, will attend the National Visitors' Conference at Glasgow Moat House Hotel, Congress Road, at 10.30am; as Honorary President of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, will visit the Firhill Business Centre. 84 Firhill Road, Woodside, Glasgow, at 1.40pm and, as Patron of the National Autistic Society, will attend the South West Appeal thank you event at Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, at 7.30pm.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, will attend a discourse given by Mr Tony Sale. at Albe-mark Street, London WI. at

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at Ilam. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30am.

Birthdays today

tor. 48: the Duke of Beaufort, 68; Miss Pam Blundell, fashion designer, 29; Mr Jermyn P. Brooks. Waterhouse chairman, Europe, 57.

Mr James Cousins, MP. 52: Lady Digby, 62: Lord Ezra, 77: Miss Margaret Farrer, former chairman, Central Midwives chairman, Central Midwives Board, 82: Mr Frank Gerstenberg. Principal. George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 55; Mrs Maureen Hicks, former MP, 48.

Mr Nicholas Kenvon, Control ler, BBC Radio 3, 45: Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College Anton Mosimann, chef. 49: Lord

Mr Colin Sanders, founder Solid State Logic, 54; Mr Martindale Sidwell, organist and conductor, 80; Miss Helena Sukova, tennis player, 31; Lord Tugendhat, 59; Mr David Ward, former president, Law Society, 59: Dom Aelred Watkin, former Headmaster, Downside School,

Criminal Court, Old Bailey,

afternoon attended a trustees

The Prince of Wales, Patron.

Intermediate Technology, this eve-

ing held a Reception at St James's

His Royal Highness, President, WaterAid, later held a Dinner for supporters at St James's Palace.

February 22: The Duke of Glouces-ter, Patron, the London Choral

Society, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this eve-

ning attended a Concert at St John's Smith Square. London

The Duke of Kent has been pleased

to appoint Mr Andrew Palmer to

be an Extra Equerry to His Royal

rist, London, 1633; John Blow.

composer, Newark, baptised

this day, 1649: George Freder

ick Handel, composer, Halle,

Germany, 1685: Mayer

Amschel Rothschild, banker,

Frankfurt, 1734; John Walter

II. chief proprietor of The Times 1812-47, London, 1776;

George Watts, painter, Lon-

don, 1817; Norman Lindsay,

artist and novelist. Creswick.

Victoria, 1879; Karl Jaspers,

Existentialist philosopher, Ol-

denburg, Germany. 1883; Vic-

tor Fleming, film director, Pasadena, California, 1883;

Erich Kastner, writer, Dres-

DEATHS: Sir Joshua Reyn-

olds, first president of the Roy-

al Academy 1768-92. London,

1792: John Keats, poet, Rome,

1821; John Quincy Adams.

sixth American President 1825-

29. Boston, Massachusetts,

1848: Carl Friedrich Gauss.

mathematician, Göttingen.

1855; William Butterfield, ar-

chitect of the Gothic revival.

London, 1900; Thomas Wood-

row Wilson, twenty-eighth

American President 1913-21,

Nobel Peace laureate 1920,

Washington, 1924; Dame Nel-

lie Melba, soprano, Sydney,

New South Wales, 1931; Sir

dward Elgar, Master of the

King's Musick 1924-34.

Worcester, 1934; Leo Hendrick

Backeland, inventor of Bake-

lite, Beacon, New York, 1944;

Paul Claudel, poet and drama-

tist, Paris, 1955; Stan Laurel

(né Arthur Stanley Jefferson).

comedian, Santa Monica, Cal-

ifornia, 1905; L. S. Lowry.

painter. Glossop, Derbyshire,

1976; Sir Adrian Boult, con-

ductor, Farnham, Surrey.

The Cato Street conspiracy

Major Walter Winfield patent-

ed an outdoor game he called "sphairistike", later known as

The Rotary Club was founded

The February revolution

The Fascist Party was founded

in Italy by Benito Mussolini.

was uncovered, 1820.

lawn tennis, 1874.

in Chicago, 1905.

began in Russia, 1917.

1983.

den, 1899.

KENSINGTON PALACE

meeting at St James's Palace.

London EC4.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests at the annual dinner of the Needlemakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Anthony Floyd, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Sir Anthony Wilson and Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, also spoke.

His Royal Highness. Chairman. the Royal Collection Trust, this State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. was the host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House to bid farewell to the

Dinners

sioner and the Agents-General were present at the annual dinner held last night at the Dorchester horel to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the society and Australia Day (January 26). Sir John Leahy, chairman, presided. Sir Colin Cowdrey and Mrs Sallyanne Atkinson, Senior Trade Commissioner for Australia in Paris, also spoke.

Securities Institute

Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner of the Securities Institute held last night at the Carlton Club. Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman, presided. Among those

present were: The Chairman of the London Stock Exchange, the Chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority. the Chairman of LIFFE, the Chairman of the London Investm Banking Association and the Chief Executive of the Securities and

National Sporting Club Mr Stephen Hamer, a Director of the National Sporting Club, pre-sided at a dinner held last night at the Cafe Royal in aid of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. Mr Gareth Edwards was the guest of honour.

Memorial services

Sir James Darling A memorial service for Sir James Darling, Head Master of Geelong Grammar School (1930-61), will be

held at Holy Trinity Church. Prince Consort Road, Kensington, on Wednesday, March 6, at noon.

Mrs Angela Farnell

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Angela Farnell, Founder of the Elderly Accommodation Counsel, was held yes terday at the Church of Our Ladv of the Assumption and St Gregory. Warwick Street, Soho. Father Francis Davis officiated.

Mr John St John Cooper read the lesson and Mr James Draper, trustee of the counsel, delivered the

Lady Fitt

A mass for Lady Firt was concelebrated on Wednesday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Michael Seed was the principal celebrant. Mr Vincent Hanna, sonin-law. led the bidding prayers. The Hon Mrs Millner, daughter. Lord Fitt, husband, other mem-

bers of the family and members of both Houses of Parliament were among those present.

Appointment

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Mr Ian Forbes Pritchard-Witts (barrister) to be a full-time chairman of industrial tribunals (England and Wales) with effect from February 26.

Mr Pritchard-Witts, who was appointed a part-time chairman of industrial tribunals in February 1994, will be assigned to the

Needlemakers' Company **HM** Governmen Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of Britain-Australia Society The Australian High Commis-

Chen Chen, who has an amazing repertoire for her age, and confidence to match

Girl, 9, chosen for festival

at 65 Davies Street, WL to launch

the annual report and to mark the

opening of "The Leading Edge", an

exhibition of current research by

individuals and project teams from

the Institute's five Colleges -

Camberwell College of Arts. Cen-

tral Saint Martins College of Art

and Design, Chelsea College of Art

and Design, London College of Fashion, and London College of

Printing and Distributive Trades.

The guests included the Coun-sellor for Cultural Affairs and

Press, Mr René Schaetti. Swiss

Embassy. Sir Brian Goswell, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP, Sir Anthony

and Lady Garner and Sir William

A PIANO-PLAYING child prodigy who has been compared to Nigel Kennedy and Vannessa Mae has been chosen to play at a prestigious festival ahead of adults twice her

Chen Chen, nine, will play at the British Federation of Festivals' seventy-fifth anniversary celebration at the University of Warwick in July. The event has helped to launch the careers of classical music "stars" including

James Galway and Nigel Kennedy. Christopher Wiltshire, the festival's organiser, said that Chen Chen, who practises for two hours every day, has enormous potential. He said: "She's only nine years old but playing an amazing repertoire. Simply, her potential is enormous. We are very excited at having such a talent at the festival and I am sure she will go a long way."

She was selected to play at the national festival after being named the best musician at the Brownbills Festival, in the West Mid-lands, last October. Janice Robinson, secretary of the festival, said that the judges had no choice but to nominate Chen Chen.

HM Government

The London Institute

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Sec-

retury of State for Foreign and

Commonwealth Affairs, was the

host vesterday at a reception given

by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of the

Western European Union

The Chairman of the London

Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham,

sor John McKenzie, were hosts at

receptions held on Tuesday, Feb-

ruary 20, and Wednesday, Feb-

ruary 21, in the Institute's Gallery

and the Institute's Rector, Profes-

Receptions

"She has such talent, and is very confident when she is under pressure. She does not buckle and when you listen to her you realise that she has great promise. She heat off people more than twice her age to get this opportunity, and competitors who have much more experience than her. When I listen to

her I can hear a new Nigel Kennedy." Chen Chen, who came to Britain three years ago with her father. Keng Chen, a student, will be performing alongside more than 300 acts from dance, drama and music.

Her teacher at Birmingham Conservatoire where Chen Chen has earned a scholarshin. is similarly astounded at her pupil's talent. Beryl Chempkin said: "It is a fiercely competitive world but if she continues she could go to the top. She has the natural talent and responds

very well to being taught. It is a joy to work with her and she is a very nice girl, no precocious at all. She plays just as well as people twice her age and often beats them in competitions. If she keeps it up there could be great things ahead for her."

University news

Hughes Hall, Cambridge Elected to a fellowship in Class A: Nicholas Sinclair Brown, Anthony Keene Rodgers.

Biology.

St Peter's College, Oxford Honorary Fellowship: Lord Han-son; Emeritus Fellowship: Charles Denis Sanderson; Democracy 2500: Research Fellowship in Ae

University of Durbaca Keith Lindsey has been appointed Professor of Plant Molecular internal promotions to chair. Mar-

tin Millett, Department of Archaeology: Ian Shennan,

pany of World Traders' annual Tacitus lecture, sponsored by the London School of Foreign Trade. which was delivered by Mr Yusef Shirawi, last night at Guildhall. Mr Bryan Montgomery, Master of the Company, and the Senior and Junior Wardens were present.

Mr G.N. Lawson Tancred and Miss E.K. Manger

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Crozier, of Pill, Avon, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Knecht, of Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles, California: Mr B.J. Frith and Miss M. Poole The engagement is announced Reniamin, second 90% of

Mr and Mrs William Frith. of Mr A.R.G. Lum Lizards Leap, Warwick, Bermuda, and Michele, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George Poole, of Langshott, Horley, Surrey. Mr D.T. Harding and Miss N.A.C. Davenport The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of

Captain and Mrs Roy Harding, of Helensburgh, and Nichola, daughter of Mr and Mrs George L Davenport, of Welwyn Garden Mr C.L.D. Jame and Ms S.M.C. MacDonald

Mr D.A.E. Costello and Miss M.E. Palmer The engagement is announced between Decian, eldest son of Dr

John Costello and Dr Christine

Costello, of Wimbledon, and Marion, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Palmer, of Newmarket

Mr S.T. Crezier and Ms S.J. Knecht

The engagement is announced between Christopher James, of Torosay Castle, Isle of Mull, and Sarah MacDonald, of Oban and Edinburgh.

Mr R.J. Jennings
and Miss E.-J. Chopping
The engagement is announced
between Richard John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Jennings, of Gawsworth, Cheshire, and Emma-lane only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J. Chopping, of Camberley, Surrey. Mr D.B. Shapiro and Miss L.H. Stanton.

The engagement is announced between David son of Or and Mrs Carl Shapiro, of Manchester, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Stanton, of Harrow, Middlesex.

Lieutenant G.D. Jones, RN. and Miss R. Birnie Reid The engagement is armounced between Gareth, younger son of Mr AJ. Jones and the late Mrs G.M. Jones, of Swansea, and Rosanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Birnie Reid, of Cults,

and Lady Cressida Ward The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Preston, of Tetbury. Gloucestershire, and Cressida youngest daughter of The Earl and Countess of Dudley, of Kensing ton, London.

Mr O.N. Preston

The engagement is announced between Gerald, younger son of Sir Henry Lawson-Tancred, Bt, and the late Jean, Lady Lawson-Tancred, of Aldborough, North Yorkshire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Manger, of Crowborough, East

and Miss C.L Gierth between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robin Lunt, of Bramshott, Hampshire, and Christine, younger daughter of Mrs Valerie Gierth and the late Mr Ronald Gierth, of Shepperton.

Mr R.D. Taylor and Miss E.M.L. Beauchamp The engagement is announced between Rod, grandson of Mr and Mrs John Duncan and nephew of Mr and Mrs Rodney Allen, of Cape Town, South Africa, and

Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Beauchamp, of Dorchester, Mr R.J.H. Jackson and Miss A.M. Hebeler

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Jackson, of Donhead St Mary, Wiltshire, and Alexandra, elder däughter of Mar Simon Hebeler, of Hexham, Northumberland, and Mrs Simon Pease and stepdaughter of Mr Simon Pease, of Kirkby Lonsdale,

Marriage

Cumbria.

Commander D. Scott, RN, retd. and Miss T.M. Scrope The marriage took place on February 22, at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, of Commander David Scott, RN. second daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Adrian Scrope

School news

Edgehill College, Bideford, The Governors are pleased to announce the following scholar-ships and exhibitions for Septem-

ber 1996: Junior scholarships: scholarship Kayleigh Folland. Sports scholarship

- Christopher

ile music exhibition — Jesse

IWrence. 13+ scholarships - Frances Martin, Elizabeth Sherry.

13+ exhibition — Johnsthon Gill-

Wycombe Abbey School Scholarship awards 1996 The Wycombe Abbey open scholarship: Pia FitzGerald, Nor-

man Court School. The William Johnston Yapp scholarship Lucinda Makeney,

High March School

Lecture Company of World Traders The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, introduced the Com

Jointy: Laura Oakley and Nishma Shah, Maltmans Green School The Whitelaw, scholarship (for music: Nicolette Wong, Diocesan Girls School, Hong Kong.

The Centenary scholarship:

The Crosthwaite scholarship: Rebecca Cox, Wycombe Abbey. The Walpole scholarship: Emily Geddes, St Christopher's School,

NW3 Minor scholarship for Georgina Thomson. St Paul's C of

E School, N2I. Exhibitions: Zoe Barber, Bute House Preparatory School:

Katharine Hirst, Wycombe Abbey; Karrina Morley-Fleicher (for art). Highfield School: Amanda Mur-phy. Wycombe Abbey; Katherint. Robertson (for piano), Wycombe Abbey; Charlotte Simpson, S Anselm's School Wycombe Abbey School (charity

rat.

No. 310638) promotes the education of girls.

Reunion

The "Ox and Cow"

The Oxford and County Business (Secretarial) College will be hold-ing a Diamond Jubilee Reunion, in Oxford, on Saturday, October 19, 1996. We should be delighted to hear from ex-students and teachers who would like to attend and/or who would like to join our alumni network. Please contact Rosemary

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

What is man, that you should remember him, a man, that you should care for him? You made him for a short while subordinate to the angels: with giety and bon-our you crowned him. Hebrews 2: 6, 7 (RES) **DEATHS**

BIRTHS

SERRY - On 17th Februar, 1996 at Queen Charlotte' and Cheisea Hospital. & Charlotte (née Kincaid) an Michael, a son. Jame Hustin.

BROOKS - On February 19th, to Suzy (née Kravitz) and Nicholas, a daughter, Holly DORRIEN-SMITH - On February 19th 1996, to Lucy and Robert, a son. Tristan

GETHING - William James born on February 16th 1996 at St Michael's Hospital Bristol, to Paula and Nick. A MOLLYWOOD - On February 18th 1996, to Joann and Richard, a beautiful baby son, George Thomas.

HOWE - On February 19th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Lynda (née Barnett) and JONES - On February 15th, in Hung Kong, to Jame (née Walker) and Michael, a

Sam and Joe. LUSH - On February 15th. to Albon (née Clark) and Paul. denghier. Tamain a daughter. Tamsin Georgina: a sister for PÉEL - On February 20th, u Patricia (née Evershed) and Francis, a son. Antony John Beechey, a brother for Felicity and Imogen.

RUTLAND - On February 14th 1996, to Cleare and Hugo, a son, a brother for Archie and Eliza. VRIES - On 19th February, to Joseph (née Hart) and Minze, twins, Emily Kaie and Lucy Susannah, sisters for

ARMSTROMG - Dr. Terence
E.. on February 21st,
suddenly, at house, at
Harston, Husband of Iris;
failer of Kevin, Ben, Dehrire
and Damarts, Funeral for
Jamily, personal and village
friends domailous to Harshon
Church Restoration Fund
(c/o Harston Vicarase

BLOOMFIELD - John Patrick.
Peacefully on 19th February
1996 at St Bartholomew's
Hospital after a long filmen.
Requiem masy at St
Edmund's, Loughton, Essex
on Friday, 1st March 1996 at
1 pm, No flowers. Donations i pm. No flowers. Donations to St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney or MacMillan Appeal c/o funeral directors Wartner & Sons. 32 Church Hill. Loughton, Enex 1610 ILA tel: (0181) 508-9409.

EROWN - Michael Basil.
Landscape Architect, on February 20th 1996. and 72. after short illness. Private cremation. Friends watmly welcome to service on Sahnday 24th February at 5 pm. Friends Meeting House. Market Street. Charlibury. Family flowers only, Donations if desired to Park Attwood Cinic (Re. McChael Brown), Triampley. Resettles Meeting.

BURROUGHS - On 21st February 1996 peacefully after a courageous fight against cancer. Jean Margaret, formerly head teacher of Pulham Cross School and Director of Education partners overses. School and Director of Education partners overseas. Sadly respect by her many friends, relations and colleagues. Funeral Service to take place on Wednesday 28th Petronsy at 1.30 pm at the Morteice Cremstorium. No flowers please but donations if desired in her memory may be sent to Research into Ovarian Canter (R.O.C.). PO Box 3872, London SW18 1XR. All anguirles to Andrew Holmes on (0181) 572-3277. DEATHS

COOTE - Anthony Benjamin
(Tony) on 21st February
1996 at St Matthews
Hospfish Northamphon, after
a short fibness, Much loved
father, grandfather and
friend Fimeral Service at St
Nicholas's Church,
Oversione, on Thursday
29th February at 11,30 am
followed by private
cremation, Family flowers
cody, Donations if desired to
Multiple Sciencets Society or
The Royal British Legion c/o
B. Hollowell & Son, Funeral
Directors, 148 Beech, Directors, 148 Beec Avenue, Northampion, NN 2JN, tel: (01604) 792222.

COX - On February 15th suddenly but peacefully a home. Frances Elisabet M.B.E. aged 90 years British family securish at Th M.E.E. aged 90 years. Private tamily service at The North East Surrey Crematorium on Tuesday February 27th at 2 pm. Floral tributes or donations for Arthritis & Rheumalism Council (A.R.C.) to W.A. Truelove & Sen. 118 Carehalton Read, Sutton. SMI 4RL. lei: (0181) 642-8211.

DICKINSON - Patrick Henry aged 68, pencefully on 21s February at Scunthorn Consent Metaltick heleva General Hospital, belove husband of Angela, muc loved father of Louis Judith, Jame and Becky at Jadeh. Jare and Berky and loving grandfather to George. Churles, Marco. Sarah. Emma and James. Private burial at St Alkmund's Church. Blyborough on 24th February. Memorial Service at St Andrew's Church. Kirton-in-Lindsey on Wednesday. 28th February wednesday. 28th February at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Donallens to Scuntherpe Hactmatology ward. Chautes payable to The P.H. Dickinson Memorial Account

PERSONAL COLUMN **DEATHS**

SREENACRE - On Tuesday
February 20th, peacefully
after a long libress, Lady
Elizabeth Marjory (née
Lindesay-Bethune), adored
mother of Philip, Louise and
Andrew and grandmother of
Georgie, Private service for
family only, on Wednesday
February 28th, Funeral
Service in Kilconquiar
Parish Church, Fife on
Saturday March 2nd at Spm.
All friends welcome, Emily parish Church. Fire on Saturday March 2nd at 3pm. All friends welcome, family flowers only please. A Service of Thanksgiving will also be hald at St Andrew's Church. Ham Common, on Thursday April 18th at 3pm. All friends will be welcome. Donations please to Marie Carle Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London

IARRISON - Mary Reed (Molly) M.A. FRIBA peacefully in hospital on 19th February 1996 aped 87 19th February 1996 aged 87 years. A Thanksqiving Service will be held at All Sainth Church, St Ives. Cambs, on Wednesday 28th, February 1996 at 3 pm. Any donations please may be made payable to either the Lagrany Mission or the Thet Support Group and sent to Dennis Easton Funeral Service. The Lodge, trued Lag. St Ives, Hunthysion, Cambs, or left at the Church at the time of Thanksytring Service.

HUME - Lady Catherine (Katinka), née Willoughby Thresby. On Feb a bready, or earthy 1912, 1996 peacefully at her home in Charlottesville, Virginia, aged 89. A service in celebration of the life of Camerine W Huns will be held at 11 o'clock on Thursday, February 29th, 1996 at St Paul's Estacopal Church, Ivy, Virginia, USA. Church, Ivy, Virginia, USA Burial will be at a later dan In THURN - Richard died at home on 20th February other a short timese. Requieth Mess at St Thomas of Catherbury. Ryleton Road. Fullneth, SWG on Thursday 29th February at 11 am. No Howers. Donations if desired to Marie, Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgirave Square. London SWIX 9QG.

GEMBLE - On February 19th 1996 in hospital Dr. Alan Robert 185c. Ph.D. of Carlyon Bay, Cornwall Dearly loved husband of Gwen. Private cremation service in Witshire Family only. No flowers please but donations if desired for the citnic of Haemaniony and Oncology, Treligie blooping of Oncology, Treligie blooping Carlond, Ruchenbark. St. Angali, Pl.26 3.N. (01726) 78869.

DEATHS

QBGHT - On February 21s peacefully at his home in Frinten-on-Sea. Captain Charles Kenneth (Ken) Knight aged 82 years Member of the Honourable Amylor aged by Peells, Member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. Much loved husband of Iris, a dearly loved father to Pamela. Deborah and Lindsay, dear grandfather of Chies. Charlotte. Roland and Charles. Funeral Service to take place at St Mary's Parish Church. Frinten-on-Sea. on Wednesday February 28th at 2 pm followed by cremation. Flowers may be sent c/o P.C. Ozley Ltd., 47 High Street, Walton-on-the-Naza.

LEAN - Al bome on February 22nd. 1996, after a definit and guty (ight agains) cancer, Margaret Anne (ne izat). Beloved wife of

Muckhagt Parish Church on Tuesday, February 27th at 11 NC arm. Papily flowers only but donations in Bet to Cancer Relief Magniffan

DEATHS WEAD - Lt Col Edward Michael Koecher Meed, OBE. Michael Koecher Meed. OBE.
TD, late of The Inns of Court
Regiment, aged 98. died
peacefully on 20th February.
Dearty loved breaked for 62
years of Lesley: very special
father of John, Joanna.
Richard and their families. A
True Gentle Man. There will
be a family fumenti service.

Michael's Church Winterbourne, if desired dossitions may be made to St. Alichael's Parochial Church Council, T.B. & H. Pendock. Funeral Funeral Directors Hambrock, Bristol BS16

MYNORS - Katherine Jamet Rickness Mynors, aged 13, much loved daughter of Charles and Jamet and either of Etzabeth, died pesceluly at home on 20th February 1996. Elizabeth birthday, after a couragems year-long struggle against home cancer. The funeral will be at 3 pm on Friday lat Merch, at 3there a Church. Booth Eding: Church. Booth Eding: Cowers or donations (to The Teelange Cancer Trust) c/o Christopher Wicksaden Pineral Service, 71 Greenford Avenue, 11 Wickenden Puberal Bervion. 71 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London W7 11.J. Har body will be busied on the following day at St Wecmards, Harefordshire:

MUSICK - Jane Monica (the Musicave) Born 14th April 1924 Penceptly at house on 9th Petruncy 1996, Dusty beloved wife of Arthur, mother of John and Liz.

DATTS - On 17th Febr 1996, Andrey Manners Outis1996, Andrey Manners Outis(nde Downie), in her 96thyear, devoked and lovingwife of the late Colonel
Heary Outis, formerby of the
17th Dogra Regi. (Indian
Army) and Cuil Lodge,
kinesteric, by Ouen, Argol.
mother of Robin and Parick,
grandinother of six and
great-transmother of eight.
Funera! Service a!
Kilmektord Parish Church.
by Oben, Argoll, at 2 pm on
Wednesday 28th February
1996 and thereafter to
Kilmitver Cemetry, Family

DEATHS

1970 and Ineresiter to Minimyer Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations it desired may be sent to Kilmetford Church; Funds. 1066 - On February 21st in hospital, Professor-Claud hospital, Professor Claud Richard (Dick) Ross, apad 71. Hon. Vice-President

SHAW - Dr. G.K.M. This is to samounce the sad loss on 20th February 1996 of Dr. Ken Shew, the greatly loved husband of Rene and father of James, Private funeral to be held on Tuesday. 27th February 1996, at Edinkillie Church. Morayahire. Donations please to the Brüsh Heart Franchton. A Memorial Sarvice will be British Heart Foundation. A Memorial Service will be held at 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 13th March 1996, at 8t Georges Church, 1996, at 8t Georges Church, East, be compensate and chickrate his lift and work. Kest, the noblest strong men, with his ableding fatth in human. nature and generately of spirit, will be greatly missed by his patients, his triends, his eventowing family and all who knew him. We will charith his memory.

TENNANT - Constance Marion peacefully on Pehruapy 21st 1996. Reguless Mass at the Cities Statel, at 12 noon or Wednesday 28th February. Committal will be at Si Richard's, Chichester, at 250 km on Thunday 29th February. No flowest picture but donations if desired in DEATHS USSHER - Neville Arland, beloved bushand of Marguerita, dearly loved father of Patrick, Richard and Caristopher and a much loved grandfather. Pesostully on February 21st 1996. Thanksgiving flevice on Monday February 26th at 12 noon, at All Baints Church, Harewood, Family Govers only, Dosstons, if vers only. Denation tred, to B.R.C.S. Pri

WITTET - Peggy. At the Lypedoch Nursing Home WITTET - Peggy. At the Lynedoch Nursing Home. Edinburgh on 20th Pehraury 1996, after a long Bless. Peggy Joan Audrey (née Whitzail) aged 74 years, Beloved wife of the late Michael and mother of lan and Mark. A funeral service wife he held at St Andrew's R.C. Church. Belford Road. Edinburgh on Saturday 24th. February at 12 noon. Peace at Lat.

Mary House, Harrogate.

YOUNG - Gran ny quietty at home or russy 17th 1996 after (MEMORIAL SERVICES

OPPE - The Memorial Service for Armide L.T. will be place at Chelson Old Church, Old Church Street, 6W3, on Tuesday 26th March et 2pp. principle - Six Stephen. A service of themicagiving in calcium the Be and work of Sr Singhen Spender will be beld on Wednesday 20th March at Jon at the church of St Martin-In-the-Piede Tragigur Square, WC2. At the work welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES EVANS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lionel James Carryon Fran-sell be held at St Swither IN MEMORIAM PRIVATE

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

- At Bucklebury, Berbahre, on 25rd February 1946 Major John Rylance Bradshaw, Royal Signels, (Jack) to Dorothy Mary Bottomley (Babs). Dec gratias. Now in Dorchester, Dorset. PUBLIC NOTICES

WALDING please contact Bridges & Bridges, Metr Finders, Secre-incolo, Midrottia, (Phone Glac) 451 0571, Part (St.6) 451 0002.) Sorp in Northemptonshire, 1912. Act in Northemptonethre, 1912 Reprise Northemptonethre, 1912 he served he a servent in the Reyral Authory, last som as a ber

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INSTRUMENTS

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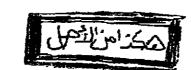
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)BITUARIES

LORD MARSHALL OF GORING

Lord Marshall of Goring, CBE. GRS, former chairman of the Afomic Energy Authority and the Central Electricity Generating Board, died of cancer on February 20 aged 63. He was born on March 5, 1932.

OR more than two decades, Walter larshall was the most eloquent okesman and principal cheerleader e nuclear power in Britain. A nionalist who fell among politicians nd emerged bruised, he never quite nderstood why his arguments so hen fell on deaf ears. But he remained abowed, the epitome of the scientistngineer who believes that all things

He was born in Rumney, Cardiff, ie son of a baker, and early showed igns of high intelligence and an openie for work. On his first day at shool he disdained the sandpit and sisted to his teacher that he wanted to

At seven he identified an error in a raths test book, and at 17 he was the pungest-ever undergraduate at Birningham University. He graduated with a first in mathematical physics at 0, and took his PhD at 22.

His emergence as a fully-fledged cientist coincided with the innocent entimism of the 1950s, when nuclear lower was seen as an endless and nexpensive source of electricity, so it vas almost inevitable that he should edrawn to work at the Atomic Energy testartal Establishment at Harwell. le spent a year at the University of alifernia, and another at Harvard, neithe becoming head of the theoretical physics division at Harwell in 1960, leputy director in 1966, and director in

He was elected FRS in 1971 and appointed CBE in 1973.

Walter Marshall combined intellechal brilliance with a forthright manper and a bulky presence which some found unnerving. Once satisfied of the rechnical merits of a case, he was impatient with doubters and prone to nail his colours too firmly to the mast. leaving him little room for retreat. His accent had a strange Germanic quality which added to the mystique. His energy was formidable.

Marshall's reign at Harwell was successful and he began the process of . directing the laboratory away from nuclear physics and into broader areas of research, which continues today. In 1974 he made a fateful step, becoming chief scientist at the Department of Energy, in uneasy harness with the Energy Secretary, Tony Benn.

By this time Benn had emerged from he chrysalis of his early career as a



technocrat and metamorphosed into a born-again leftwinger with decided views on nuclear power. The relation-ship with Marshall was bound to be explosive, and so it proved. To Marshall's plaint that there was no lobby for nuclear power in Britain, Benn once replied: 'Yes there is, Walter, and vou look at it every morning when voure shaving."

While Marshall did his best to promote the building of pressurised water reactors in Britain. Benn did all he could to undermine the whole concept of the peaceful atom. A parting of the ways was inevitable, and it came when Marshall was sacked from his post in 1977. "It was awful," he later

Thatcher for keeping the lights on during the miners' strike of 1984 and thereby making a major contribution to the outcome.

At the beginning Marshall had to make a tough decision. Would the strike be a long one, justifying the immediate burning of expensive oil in power stations his predecessors had ordered years before? He believed so and did it, promising to resign if he was wrong, and the action cost the CEGB dear. He was right, and emerged as a life peer in 1985 on Mrs Thatcher's recommendation. But he could never have done it if the CEGB had not over-ordered plant in the 1970s, building up a huge generating surplus which Marshall deployed so

brilliantly to see off Arthur Scargill.
This was Marshall's finest hour, but disappointment lay ahead. The Chernobyl disaster of 1986 shook confidence in nuclear power, though Marshall was quick to identify and publicise the technical flaws of the Soviet reactor responsible, and contrast it with Western designs. In spite of his efforts, however, the nuclear

dream was now turning sour. In 1989 there was a further setback. Once again he had staked his job, this time promising to go if the CEGB was not preserved intact after privatisation. Cecil Parkinson, then Energy Secretary, rightly decided that competition could be achieved only if the company was split. Then, at the very last moment, nuclear power was pulled from the privatisation when its true costs were finally disclosed.

Marshall stalked away from Whitehall once more, never to return. He founded the World Association of Nuclear Operators and was appointed its first chairman, advised insurance syndicates and represented foreign power companies, but these were jobs below his true merit. Having staked his career from the outset on the promise of nuclear power, he suffered eclipse just as surely as it did.

Lord Marshall won many awards and medals, including the Kelvin Medal, the Maxwell Medal for Theoretical Physics, and - inappropriately, some may feel - the Henry DeWolf Smyth Nuclear Statesman Award. He was never a statesman, but never a trimmer, either. He said what he believed, loudly and clearly, and was happy to be judged by it. It distressed him that arguments he found so powerful left so many others unmoved. Lord Marshall lived in Goring-on-

Thames, where he cultivated a garden. practised origami, played croquet and kept up an interest in physics. He is survived by his wife Ann and a son and

MORTON GOULD

Morton Gould, American composer, conductor and pianist, died in Orlando, Florida. on February 21 aged 82. He was born on

MORTON GOULD was a classical composer in a particularly American mould, who built bridges between the concert hall and popular music. and who wrote several works which have become standards

of light music.
Like George Gershwin and
Aaron Copland, Gould em-ployed familiar jazz and folk idioms in his compositions, putting them to more formal. classical use. And, like Erroll Garner, he was able to improvise delightfully at the piano from a theme submitted by the audience. This laner ability soilt over into his concert works, making him particu-larly susceptible to jazz influences, and giving his work a great rhythmic freedom.

He was also an extremely versatile composer. From his first composition at the age of six to the winning of the Pulitzer Prize for Music last year, Gould worked on almost every aspect of musical entertainment: radio and television. films, ballet and theatre work, as well as on the concert stage. Much of his work had a strongly patriotic flavour, which might explain why he was not better known outside America.

The son of an Austrian father who worked as an estate agent, and a Russian mother, Gould was brought up in New York. He began improvising on the piano at the age of four, and thus became known as an infant prodigy - a rather tiresome abel to be reminded of when he was older and trying to establish himself as a serious

He published his first composition, a waltz entitled Just Six, two years later. At eight he was awarded a full scholar-ship to the New York Institute of Musical Art, later to become the Juilliard School of Music, under the patronage of its director, Walter Damroch.

Gould went on to study piano under Abby Whiteside at the New York University



School of Music, from which he graduated at the age of 15 although still in high school for his regular education. But in 1930 he was forced to drop out of school when the Depression ruined his father. He then began to look to music as a full-time professional career.

He launched himself on a lecture-demonstration tour of East Coast universities. But, although this was well received, he soon turned to the more lucrative fields of the theatre and radio, evolving special musical forms that could fit into tight schedules. He called these "symphonettes" and "concertettes". From these came the melodious Pavane, the second movement of the Second American Symphonette (1935), which for many years was a staple of the light orchestra repertoire.

There was also Interplay originally known as American Concertette for piano and orchestra and composed for José Iturbi – which Jerome Robbins used as the score for his ballet Interplay. Late in 1942 Gould's Spirituals for Orchestra was performed.

The following year. Gould's first full symphony had its premiere. His second, performed by the New York Philharmonic, was panned by the critics for its eclecticism: but Gould persisted and turned out a stream of concert works over the next six years. By 1949 he was ranked, along with George Gershwin and Aaron Copland, as one of the three most popular American

He had his own touring orchestra, his own recording studio and his own music publishing concern. Pieces like American Salute and Cowboy Rhapsody were being played, it seemed, by almost every high school band and orchestra in the country.

Commissions flowed in over the next three decades. There were two Broadway shows: Billion Dollar Baby in 1945 and Arms and the Girl in 1950, and a stream of concert performances which he often conducted himself, including a 1966 appearance with the BBC Festival Orchestra in London. Gould had struck a nerve in the American musical

He said of his own work: Whatever newness there may be in my music is not so much a radical departure as an integration and crystallisation of influences in our native musical scene." He continued to work until the end of his life. Morton Gould is survived by two sons and two

daughters.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER HUGH HODGKINSON

Lieutenant-Commander Hugh Hodgkinson, DSC and Bar, schoolmaster oestroyer ca died on January 22 aged 84. i de was born on January 13, 1912.

IU Hodgkinson's pproach to the education of oung people, both within and ithout the naval service, ould hardly be described as child-centred" or to have any ffinity with today's fashion-ble doctrines. His singular chievement was to lift Milton. bbey school, near Blandford Dorset, from a low point of boys and a parlous bank lance to one of the country's ost successful private hools, with a recognisable hos of its own, more than 250 pupils and a waiting list. His belief, for example, that "the officers must be tougher bly fashioned by his own naval upbringing Before being invalided out in 1948 with persistent sinus problems, he was given, as his final post in the Navy, one that was habitually given only to the best — teaching the 13-year-old new entry cadets at the Royal

Navai College, Dartmouth. One of his trainees remembers him as an admirable exemplar. To us schoolboys he was very glamorous, with his war record, his medals and his good looks. But he taught us the iron imperatives of our duty towards others and to the Service with wisdom and friendliness."

After leaving the Navy, he mature student at St Catherfew years were spent teaching in two different schools in South Africa, a period in which he also had a useful year at Gordonstoun.

and applying for the job of a housemaster at Milton Abbey. he was told: "It's not a housemaster we need but a headmaster." Thus began 14 years of hard labour. The new headmaster introduced the custom of the early morning run, the uniform of lovat green shirt and shorts, an accent on practical work with the hands, regular chanel services and other measures now widely seen as archaic.

But behind these eve-catchtook a history degree as a ing and often controversial mature student at St Cather-initiatives flourished a quiet esteem and extracted achievement beyond expectation, both inside and outside the classnoom. Robert Hugh Hodgkinson

Public rehabilitation came with the

election in 1979 of Margaret Thatcher,

the only politician ever really on

Marshall's wavelength. Mrs Thatcher

adored getting her head around com-

plex technical issues like global warm-

ing, arms control, or nuclear power,

perhaps suspecting this took her into

areas where her Cabinet colleagues

seldom dared to tread. Marshall

proved the perfect foil.
In 1981 he became chairman of the

Atomic Energy Authority, staying only

a year in the post before inheriting the

chairmanship of the Central Electricity

Generating Board, a far riskier promi-

nence for one with his combination of

qualities. He was knighted in 1982 and

earned the undying gratitude of Mrs

joined the Navy in 1925. A Returning to Dorset in 1955 career in destroyers and minesweepers was enhanced by a tour in South Africa as ADC to the Governor-General; in South Africa he met his wife. Wendy, whom he married in 1938. At the beginning of the war he was second-in-command of the destroyer Harwester and then, throughout 1941, of the crack destroyer Hotspur, which was based at Alexandria. Hodgkinson's book, Before

Tide Turned (1944) describes how Hotspur took part in the Battle of Cape participation in the rescue of most of the British and Commonwealth troops from Greece and Crete, an operation which was conducted throughout under relentless

air attack. Yet, although the Mediterranean Fleet suffered terrible losses, the gratitude of the army it succoured - and the knowledge that the soldiers had been rescued to fight another day - was its reward. Admiral Cunningham's stirring call to his officers and men that "we must not let them [the Army] down" had not gone unheeded.

In the dawn of May 29, 1941, while in the the process of withdrawing from Crete, laden with rescued troops, Hotspur was ordered to turn back towards the coast and find the destroyer Imperial. which was crippled with defective steering gear. She was to take off the troops Imperial had evacuated and then sink her. This Hotspur accomplished and just managed to escape in broad daylight with, by that time, more than 900 soldiers crammed on board. Other ships of the evacuation force were not so lucky: the destroyer Hereward perished under air attack, and there were heavy casualties among the soldiers when the cruisers Orion and Dido were severely

Hotspur later suffered damage herself in an unpleasant surprise engagement with two large and powerful Vichy French destroyers, which in-



tercepted her and another British destroyer off the Lebanese coast between Tyre and Sidon. With their combined armament of ten 5.5-inch guns - almost a light cruiser armament - the Guepard and Valmy totally outgunned the British destroyers. Indeed, the

latter were lucky to escape, since the French ships were not only better armed but could also steam at 40 knots several knots faster than any British destroyer. Having extricated herself from this peril,

Hotspur subsequently took

part in a dozen hazardous

supply runs into besieged Tobruk until that crucial strongpoint was relieved by i Anny in Dec 1941. She also participated in the sinking of a U-boat.

Hodgkinson was repatriated with jaundice, and it was not until late 1943 that he was able to persuade the powersthat-be to give him a command, the Hunt class destroyer Pytchiey. in Pytchley, he earned his first DSC as a consequence of a brisk night action in the North Sea off Cromer, successfully protecting a convoy, at the cost of one armed trawler, against an attack by four flotillas of German E-boats numbering 32 craft. The convoy had, luckily, received advance warning of the approach of the enemy by RAF bombers which had spotted the E-boats while returning from a raid over Germany

Hodgkinson's second DSC was awarded for his courage and determination as escort group commander off Gold Beach during the Normandy invasion. He ended the war in Tokyo Bay in command of the destroyer Wizard.

His later enthusiasms resulted in a book about the flora and fauna of the Pyrenees, and an ornate silver bowl which is competed for annually with great rivalry by the sailing teams of Dartmouth, Cranwell and Sand-

An inspirational teacher and a bright light in the ambiguous world of today's education, Hughie Hodgkinson is survived by his wife Wendy and by their two sons and a daughter.

THE NEW GREEK ISLAND (From our Athens correspondent)

A new island began to rise above the level of the sea in the Bay of Thera (Santorin) on the 4th inst. and in five days it attained the height of from 130ft to 150ft, with a length of upwards of 350ft and a breadth of 100ft. It continues to increase, and consists of a rusty black metallic larva, very heavy, and resem-

bling half-melted scoria that has boiled

up from a furnace.

The present eruption commenced on January 31. A noise like volleys of artillery was heard, but without any earthquake. On the following day flames issued from the sea, in a part of the bay called Bulkanos, where the water is always discoloured and impregnated with sulphur from abundant springs at the bottom. The flames rose at intervals to the height of 15ft, and were seen at times to issue from the southwestern part of Nea Kaimene. That island was soon rent by a deep fissure and the ON THIS DAY February 23, 1866

类型作品绘

The Sansorini region has since become a popular resort, because the volcano is inactive and there is the chance to peer into the defunct craters.

February 4 the eruptions became more violent. Gas forced itself up from the depths with terrific noise, resembling the bursting of a steam boiler; flames arose at intervals, and white smoke formed an immense column, crowned with a curled capital of dark heavy clouds. The new island was visible next morning, increasing sensibly to the eye as it rose out of the sea at no great distance.

ITALY: Florence, February 18 southern part sank considerably. On Just 40 in number are the Deputies who,

according to the latest published list, have inscribed their names to speak in the present debate - 40 thieves of the precious time of Italy.

Five of these orators have said their say in the first two days of the desultory discussion. If the remaining 35 proceed at the same rate, a vote will be come to on March 5. Fortunately, there is a chance that, when half a dozen more Deputies shall have spoken, the chamber will get weary, and will insist on an early close of the debate.

The pretext for all this debate is the Bill for granting two months' supplies - a grant that must be made if the administration of the country is to go on. It would be erroneous to imagine that the debate is on this topic, than which nothing seems further from the thoughts of the Chamber. Every honourable Deputy who has something to say, no matter on what topic, foists it into this discussion. One develops a financial plan, another makes a long speech on the reductions in the army, another takes for his theme the documents in the French Yellow-book ...

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Home loan interest rate cut

■ The Nationwide Building Society cut its mortgage rate yesterday in a move to boost the housing market. The halfpoint cut and a corresponding increase in interest for savers will cost the society about half of its £400 million annual profit.

The money is being invested in customer loyalty in the face of the recent merger mania that has brought £1.000 handouts to members of societies that have combined or announced plans to become publicly quoted companies

Clowes freed on parole

■ Peter Clowes, who defrauded 18,000 investors of £16 million, was freed on parole yesterday after serving only four years of his ten-year jail term. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said he was "reluctantly" bound by law to accept the Parole Board recommendation ..

Snow fun

Eton pupils were reminded that throwing snowballs in the vicinity of the school is forbidden after Prince William was said to have had his clothes filled with snow by classmates...

Scott retort Sir Richard Scott entered the pol-

inical battle on arms-to-Iraq last night by accusing ministers of selectively quoting his report to support their claims that he had Page 1 cleared them

Uister meetings

John Major unexpectedly arranged a round of meetings with Unionist and nationalist leaders as he sought to break the Northern Ireland deadlock......Page 2

Hospital visit

The Princess of Wales toured Imran Khan's cancer hospital in Lahore, visibly moved by the distress of patients but seemingly oblivious to controversy surrounding her presence Page 3 Oil inquiry

The Transport Secretary ordered

an independent inquiry into the Sea Empress accident, and a marine pollution expert said oil pollution could damage the Welsh coast for a decadePage 4 **Bomb inquest**

The bomb that killed the IRA terrorist Ed O'Brien exploded close to his right leg, the inquest into his death was told Page 5

Separate lessons

The Education Secretary refused to send inspectors to check the standard and content of segregated religious teaching at a Birmingham school Page 6

Discrimination claim

Resistance to equal opportunity policies has grown while bullying and racist and sexist jokes remain part of police life, according to new report

Bunker mentality

Albania is covered by more than 700,000 reinforced concrete bunkers, indestructible monuments to 45 years of paranoid Communist dictatorship......Page 10

Defence shake-up President Chirac has unveiled sweeping plans to overhaul the

defence establishment. He will drastically reduce troop numbers, phase out compulsory military service and streamline the armaments industries Page II Palestine talks

The senior adviser to the Israeli Prime Minister has held secret

talks with Palestinian leaders and is on record as saying there will be a new Palestinian state withinPage 12 two years Free run ends

Couples take four to six months longer to achieve a pregnancy if the man spends more than three hours a day in his car, according to a study by French researchers. They believe the reason is probably lower sperm counts caused by the increased temperature of the testicles from sitting so long in a fixed position...



Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the Commons, opens an extraordinary session of the Western European Union at Church House, London

BUSINESS

Profits damage: British Gas unveiled the profits damage it sustained after the company was hit by a shareholders' revolt over salaries and the gas regulator cast doubt on

Profits up: ICI announced a neardoubling of pre-tax profits yesterday from £588 million to £951 million during 1995..... Page 21

Media: Carlton Communications' tentative plan to launch a £1.5 billion spoiler bid for MAI, the rival that plans to merge with United News & Media, was effectively halted .. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 14.4 to close at 3740.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 83.7 to 83.6 after a fall from \$1.5448 to

Cricket: England beat Holland by

49 runs in a World Cup match in Peshawar with no style but with the comfort of achieving qualification for the quarter-finals...... Page 40

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros accepted the offer of the captaincy of Europe's team for the Ryder Cupmatch at Valderrama, Spain, in September 1997..... ... Page 40

Rugby union: Simon Mason, the Orrell fullback, will make his debut for Ireland against Wales on March 2. Ireland make eight changes in all; Wales are Page 40 unchanged ...

Football: Jan Molby, the Liverpool midfield player, has been appointed player-manager of Swansea City, who are next to bottom of the second division Page 40

☐ General: England and Wales

will have a mainly cloudy start with

mist and fog slow to clear from

central and eastern areas. There will be some bright spells for a time early in the day, but overcast skies and outbreaks of rain will spread from the west during daylight hours. Scotland and Northern Ireland

will have a wet start with sleet and rain although the east coast may be briefly dry around dawn.

The persistent rain will clear from

weather and blustery showers following. Eastern parts of Scotland will be dry by the atternoon.

I London, Central S, SE England, E Anglis: mist and fog patches clearing, some bright spells developing. Outbreaks of

rain during the evening and night. Wind westerly light becoming southerly moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ E, W Midlands, Central N, E

England: mist and fog clearing

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ABHOAD

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107 4 5 3 4 3 50 39 41 37 39 37 \$1. \$1. \$1. \$2. \$3.

Laughing all the way: Whatever kind of show it may be, the new Gulp Fiction is certainly a lot of fun for its audience, reports Benedict Nightingale

Bad start: A routine production of Rigoletto launches English Touring Opera's annual tour in shakyPage 29

Behind the scenes: You think that you saw the Brit Awards on television this week, but you missed all the most important bits, thanks to a little bit of screen censorship Page 30

Singer speaks: Alanis Morissette is one pop star who does not have to rely on the tricks of the trade. She has her talent to carry her Page 31

Lady of note: Valerie Grove talks to Baroness Hollis of Heigham about divorce settlements, singing and the attractions of new Labour. Page 14

Wheel of fortune: Giles Coren visits Britain's casinos, a world of blackjack, roulette wheels and sexual games Page 15

Mind the gap: Julia Liewellyn Smith on why a gap year is simply an opportunity to drink cheap beer and lie in the sun all day .. Page 15

University challenge: As the Government announces an inquiry into higher education. David Blunkett explains Labour's vision of lifelong learning while Don Foster reveals the Lib Dems' plansPage 33

Off course: "I left it on the Great Garden go down the hole, never to Wall of China." James Ardglass on геарреат classic excuses for not handing in homework on time......Page 33

If Europe must be emphasised by a strong Franco-German axis it cannot boil down to this couple out Italy, founding member of the Common Market, without Spain, a great Mediterranean power, and without Great Britain, the country of the City.

— Le Monde

Preview: Topical humour with bite is promised in The Mark Thomas Comedy Product (Ch 4, 10.30pm) Review: Lynne Truss on a hop bh watchable insect series Page 39

islam at school

Squabbles among religious denominations stunted the growth of England's education system in the last century. Squabbles over the properplace for our established religious traditions could equally blight the development of Britain's schools in the next Page 17'

Euromyths three

The argument that "Europe" would carry more weight by pooling sovereignty is subject to the test of pragmatism. It can be valid only when working together is more effective than preserving national

Land of eagles

Albania has sought to learn the ways of the West with an impocent enthusiasm that has heartened international lenders; and it has shown that a little know-how assistance, sensibly applied, can bring enormous changes Page 17

PETER RIDDELL

The conventions of Westminster work against an anti-establishment populist Enoch Powell was perbans the last to attract the support. But his personality and instincts were the opposite of a Buchanan

BERNARD LEVIN

There is, I regret to say, a body of people - not necessarily ignorant of the arts and particularly music who resoice every time the gloomy Covent Garden financial figures are announced. What is ! more, there are genuine opera-lov-

ers who would love to see Covent

Lord Marshall of Goring, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority and the Central Electric ity Generating Board, Morto Gould, American composer; Lien kinson, destroyer captain. Page

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THE PARTY IS

and Carter in .

the series -

Del Zerro Spirit 2 ...

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pre 95% -----

Calls for Lyell's resignation; tanke disaster: hereditary peers.. Page

Pat Buchanan's free run ended as leading Republicans, the and foreign governments lashed out at his protectionism and alleged The long road to fatherhood THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,098 TIMES WEATHERCALL



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

day tempr Guerrosy Charres lowest day marc Conshan, highest rainfall, Jersey, 24m highest surstanes

IN THE TIMES ■ MUSIC

Reader offer: take a friend to a concert for 30p

ROOK? Tom Bower on Nick

Leeson's Rogue Trader, Lynne Truss on the world according to Mike Leigh

during the day but it will be mainly cloudy with outbreaks of rain during

the afternoon. Dry later. Wind southerly, light becoming mod-erate. Feeling cold. Max 5C (41F).

erate. Feeling cold. Max 30 (417).

Channel Isles, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: cloudy and mainly dry start. Rain during morning, brighter with showers later.

Wind south to southwesterly, mod-

☐ NE England, Borders, Edin-burgh & Dundes, Aberdeen,

Moray Firth: mainly dry and bright start but showers for a time. Dry by dusk. Wind southerly fresh or

Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyil, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: rain and sleet. Brighter by the afternoon. Sleet and snow after dark. Wind

southerly strong. Max 6C (43F).

spells, but rain in the southeast.

☐ Outlook: showers and sunny

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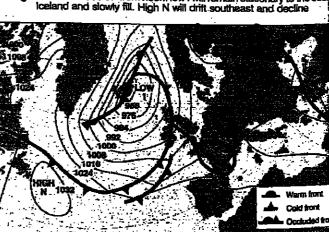


Sunny Sunny intervals Cloudy **a** Drizzle Overcast Rain Sleet and sunny showers

🛖 Lightning Hail Snow 13

Temperatus (Celsius) -20

Changes to the chart below from noon: low I will remain stationary to the s loeland and slowly fill. High N will drift southeast and decline



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Kent, Surrey, Sussex. Dorset, Hantis & TOW Devon & Cornwall Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Somo Barks, Bucks, Oxon Barks, Bucks, Oxon Barks, Bucks, Oxon Worlok, Sufficik, Cambs West Mid & Sth Glant & Gw Stroots, Hearlife & Worst Lincs & Humberside N E England Cumbra & Lake District S W Scotland W Central Scotland Edit S Fletcothlan & Bordess E Central Scotland Gramman & E Highlands N W Scotland Customes Officer & Shetbard Castness Others & Shetbard N W Scotland Cathness, Orkney & Shetland N keland Weethercall is charged at 35p per AA BOADWATCH For the latest AA traffic/readworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0336 461 followed by the appropriate code: London & SE traffic, readworks Area within M25 Essex/Hens Beds/Bucks/Benks Cook Kent/Sunys/Sussex/Hants M25 London Orbital only. 25 To banish cares is to unwind (9). 26 City making an end of many Middlends East Anglia North-west England North-east England Scotland Northers: Ireland 27 Compensation in respect of duds

ACROSS

- I Male has to shed stone to get into driver's compartment (7). 5 Where convict brought round
- depressed goes finally? (7). 9 Spears food for practical cat (9). 10 White linen garment old farm labourer found a little short (5).

11 A pipe to have right after the

- cheese (5). 12 Leisure attraction in soccer ground I objectively found (5.4).
- I 14 i have ideal seek to repair dreadful memory (4.4.1.5). 17 Bookmaker's work is complete
- and conclusive (7,7). 21 Ruthless old republican leader attending party gathering at last
- (3-3-3). 23 Objection to church being aggressively masculine (5). 24 Distribution network for heroin's
- ending in Thailand, just about (5). Solution to Puzzle No 20,097

I Taxi-driver retains right to be

big one's head is? (7).

- irritable (6). 2 Upset stemming from proof how
- 3 Bird to leave hilltop (9). 4 Mean and drunk, delivered punch
- (5-6). 5 Flop is taken over, becoming something that's fun (3).
- 6 It's cruel to work for someone's profit (5).
- 7 Incense put in extremely unusual case, silver (7).
- 8 Gem king left in less extravagant setting (8). 13 Engraves tin with representation
- showing Venus (7.4). 15 Agree with directors this could be

shelved (9).

- 16 Much is caught here, but many may be dropped (8). 18 Music paper appearing promptly?
- 19 Compound to hear exploit of Paul Revere? (7).
- 20 Encourages for so long (6). 22 Tax-free saving mounted to such a
- benefit (5). 25 It's time someone spoke of us (3).
 - Times Two Crossword, page 40